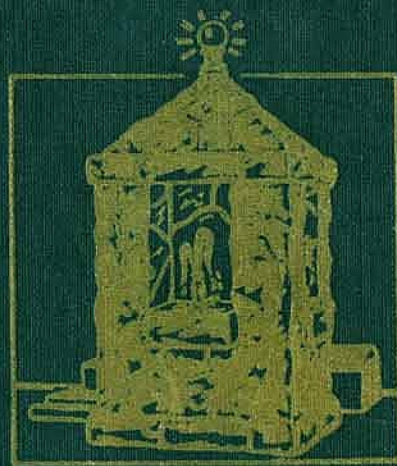
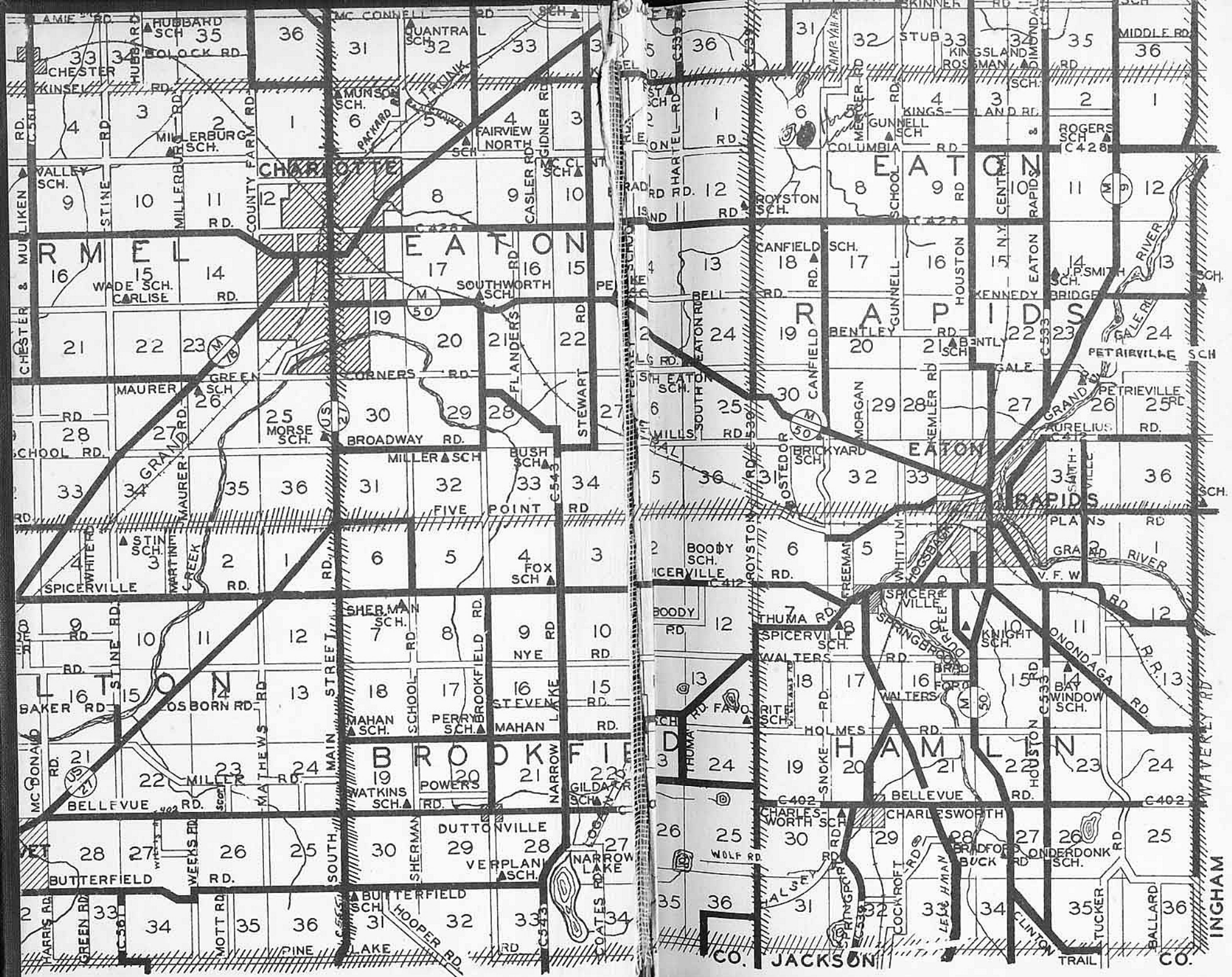


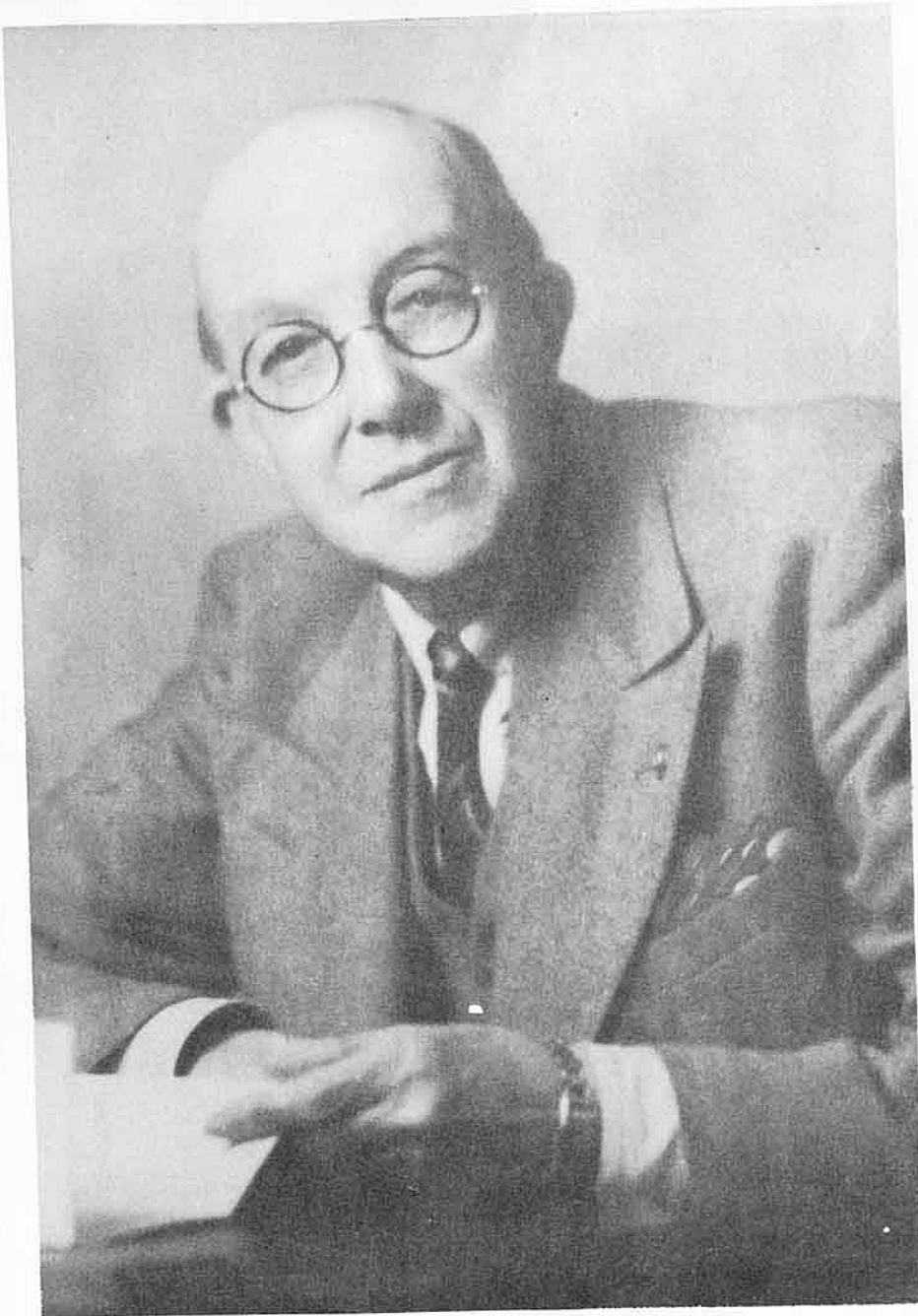
THE ONLY
EATON RAPIDS
ON EARTH

by
W. Scott Munn





Regards of the Author
W. Scott Munn 7/2/52



The Author — W. Scott Munn

I dedicate this book to
MY SAINTED MOTHER
Comfort Mary Eliza de Les Dernier-Munn

THE ONLY EATON RAPIDS ON EARTH

*The Pioneer History of Eaton Rapids and
Hamlin Townships with Reminiscences*

by W. Scott Munn



BORDINE WELL

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

Everything has a beginning and an ending; the architect has his blue print, the artist his model, the pharmacist his formula, and the author of each and every book lays a foundation for his narrative with a graphic word picture by which the reader can formulate his own idea and carry it in his mind's eye through the entire story.

My history of Eaton Rapids will be confined almost entirely to the village or city itself and to the two adjoining townships, Eaton Rapids and Hamlin, in which, the city is so neatly nestled. It will give briefly a historical sketch of those responsible for the forming and development of the village and of a few that played an important part in the settlement of the townships. It is not the intent of the writer to slight any one of these early pioneers who endured the hardships and are largely responsible for the many improvements we now enjoy, but space will not permit mention of all of them. There are, however, a few persons during this period whom I have been unable to find anything about, yet they are identified as founders in some particular line that made Eaton Rapids what it is today. If none of their kin are living, about the only means left is to visit either "Rosehill" or "Oakwood" and obtain the only information possible from the epitaph carved on the marble slab that marks their resting place. However, in some instances my memory has not failed me and I have been able, in a small way, to record chronologically the credit that is due them.

More than six months was given over to compiling material on the early pioneers, in both Eaton Rapids and Hamlin townships, and their next of kin down to the present time. This was secured by personal contact and a considerable amount of correspondence. To publish my findings would necessitate more than a hundred additional pages.

This work has not gone for naught, as all data is deposited in the vault of the Horner Woolen Mills Company.

I trust that this material may be used at some future time and I dedicate it to posterity.

FOREWORD

It has always been a source of great concern to me why someone didn't make an effort to write a history of the pioneer days of Eaton Rapids and its adjoining countryside.

Ever since I was a wee lad, I have listened for hours to different early settlers telling of their experiences, some of which would make my blood curdle at the horror of it all. Being enthusiastic over their adventures, I would ask them many questions, fearing they had overlooked some minute details that would make their narration more complete. I was hungry for information about those early days and read practically everything appertaining thereto.

I was a second Huckleberry Finn—a dreamer. Through my mind's eye I could go into the dense forests and there on the bank of a babbling brook would be the red man's wigwam. A faint noise, and behold, he has beached his canoe and is coming forth with a net thrown over his shoulder filled with muskrats, the yield of his trusty traps over the night. Over the campfire hang rows of these tiny creatures neatly dressed and being smoked for his winter larder. Perhaps he might be seen coming over the knoll with a deer, the result of his keen eyes and his unerring bow and arrow. His squaw might be in front of the wigwam preparing clothing for the family from the well-tanned hides of any one of the many animals that roamed the forest, or in summer she might be stringing wild berries on the slender stalks of timothy to dry for future consumption.

Later I see the pioneers leaving their homes in New England for the Western Wilds, with an ox team and a wagon loaded with provisions, making their way to Cleveland, or going by boat to Detroit and then starting on the Michigan pilgrimage—through dense woods, following a trail someone has partially hewed before them. Over knoll, through swamps, fording streams, enduring all the hardships known to man, they finally reach the parcel of land they had procured from the Government. A neighbor has preceded them; true friendship and hospitality are at once extended. A few days of clearing, then a cabin takes form, is finally finished, and our pioneers are nicely settled in

their new home—"The Michigan Forest."

*You men and women of valor,
Tried-trusted and true;
No luxuries would we enjoy to-day
Had it not been for you.*

Thus our pioneers made their progress here the hard way.

Some time ago I was called to the Horner Woolen Mills Company for an interview with two of my esteemed friends, Richard G. Toncray and Frank B. Klopell, members of the firm. I was informed by them that I had some important data they desired. The information given them, I was asked if I could furnish complete knowledge in regard to the mineral spring boom of the early '70's which gave Eaton Rapids the name of the "Saratoga of the West"! I procured a map of the city, marked the location of all wells and the names of hotels and boarding houses, also the year the wells were sunk and the name by which they are known. They informed me I had given valuable data that would be handed down to posterity. The firm has had the map published.

To the reader, the above has but little interest, but listen! I was accosted in this manner. "Mr. Commissioner—you are drafted". I informed Mr. Toncray I was too old "for the draft." "Yes—yes, I know," was his reply. "But we want a history of Eaton Rapids and vicinity, and in our estimation you are the one to do it to our entire satisfaction." Imagine my surprise! I had passed on to me the task that I had always hoped would be performed by someone else. I have accepted the challenge and will try to unfold this history as I see it, ever bearing in mind the words of my sainted mother, "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well." I realized the responsibility that confronted me, and there were but three sources to turn to: my memory, the history of Eaton County, and what information was available in the State Library. I was agreeably surprised at the numerous instances I was able to bring to mind. After reading pages of history and spending many hours in the Library, I was ready to write the history of "The Only Eaton Rapids On Earth."

Most respectfully submitted,

W. Scott Munro

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EATON RAPIDS

How It Received The Name

Eaton Rapids is geographically situated in the southeastern part of Eaton County. Its boundaries extend into both Eaton Rapids and Hamlin townships. Like the county, the name was given it in honor of John H. Eaton, Secretary of War in Jackson's Cabinet from 1829 to 1836, and the "Rapids" from Grand River which came tumbling down over the rocks, hastily wending its way to Lake Michigan. It is said that originally the river came flowing through here with great rapidity. I understand the fall between Smithville (two miles south) and this city was eighteen feet. Within its boundaries the county had the usual amount of swamps, brooks and lakes, yet the mighty forest eclipsed all.

The Coming of Civilization

When the white man came into Eaton County preparatory to purchasing land from the Government, erecting his cabin with a view of making it his future home, he was confronted with the same people as Columbus when he discovered this country—the red man or American Indian.

There were three principal tribes in the central and southern part of the lower peninsula, viz: the Ojibwas, the Ottawas, later known as the Hurons, and the Wyandots. These three tribes were more or less intermingled and could scarcely be said to have had any permanent place of abode. At various periods of the year, all of them probably occupied the counties of Eaton and Ingham for hunting purposes and during the sugar-making season. One theory is that they came from different points, those from the southwest via Spring Brook, the southeast-Grand River, and the east via the Red Cedar River to Biddle City (Lansing) and then up Grand River.

Two outstanding parcels of land in the county were the "Burr Oak Plains", the one where the village of Bellevue is now located, and the other, all lands lying east of this city and Grand River

out State Street, known as the Montgomery Plains. The scarcity of timber at these points attracted the red man, as it took very little effort on his part, or should I say his squaw's, to raise their "Indian Corn" and potatoes. This land was accessible to running water, the former to Battle Creek and the latter to Grand River. These streams offered the Indians food and gave them an opportunity for trapping beaver, muskrats, et cetera. When tanned, as only the Indian could do it in those days, they were bartered for provisions with the new neighbor, the white man.

When Benjamin Knight opened his store in 1837, it made a trading center that was tremendously well-patronized by the Indians who exchanged their skins, wares, and a certain amount of meat for merchandise and it was also a port for those immigrants or pioneers to stop and procure provisions on their way down Grand River. Many purchased lumber at Jackson, built scows and loaded them with their families and all their earthly belongings, and poled their craft down the river to this place or points below. It was not an uncommon thing to see several of these scows wending their way down the river at one time.

THE MONTGOMERY FAMILY

The first pioneer settling in Section 1 in the southeastern part of the county, now known as Hamlin township, was John Montgomery, better known as Colonel John. In later years no one had a larger acquaintance or was held in higher esteem than he. I do not feel as though I could tell in such emphatic terms the principal reason of his locating in Eaton County, and also the enthusiasm he displayed and administered in all civic and military affairs, so from time to time I will refer to excerpts from a chronological record he personally gave to a narrator (Durant) who compiled a history of Eaton County in 1880. "He was born in Ireland on March 22, 1804; the family immigrated to New York State the following year and he remained with his father until he reached his majority. He was married to Miss Amanda Rorabeck February 17, 1828, and being desirous of having a farm of his own, on March 2, 1831, he set out on foot for Michigan. He walked all the way through Canada and back again reaching home the last day of March.

While traveling near the town of Dexter in Washtenaw County, he overtook a man by the name of Boyden, a well-to-do farmer of that section, who was journeying along with his oxen and cart. In riding with him, Montgomery disclosed his purpose to purchase land and, as they were passing a piece of burr-oak plains which chanced to belong to his companion, he volunteered the information that he would not have such a piece of land as that—what he wanted was some land that would grow trees. Then, observing the farmer looking at him with a half-smile, he retorted, "Well, I know what kind of land I want as well as you do." His companion made no remark except to inform him there was a variety of land in the vicinity, and that doubtless he could find such as he preferred. A few days later he purchased 160 acres of heavily timbered land. After building himself a house and moving his family into it, he took a piece of this same burr-oak plains to plant on shares and he also worked for Mr. Boyden in harvest, and when he saw the fruit of the soil he began to suspect that he had deluded himself in buying a heavily timbered farm.

With renewed energy he set about clearing and improving his land and in about four years was able to sell his farm for \$2,150, hoping to find some land like that of his neighbor Boyden. With this object in view, he started into the woods in December, 1835, in company with Clark Sill, a professional land-looker. They came into Eaton County from the southeast, where all was wilderness after they left Henrietta, Jackson County. (Henrietta is a small hamlet twelve miles northeast of Jackson and two miles south of Pleasant Lake.)

When they came on the rise of ground south of the plains, Montgomery said, "There is some land that looks like what I want." Whereupon he purchased nearly 500 acres of this burr-oak plains land, formerly referred to.

Arriving home, he set out almost immediately on his return, taking with him a yoke of cattle. He was accompanied by his brother Robert and J. Shepard. From Henrietta they had to cut their road for twenty miles. After arriving at his farm they spent three days building a log cabin, and in January, 1836, the Montgomeries were nicely situated in their new home. Willis Bush came with them and located a farm on Section 36, Eaton

Rapids township. The selection of a plains farm was amply justified, for the Colonel was enabled the first year to sow sixty acres of wheat that produced a good crop, all of which was sold for a dollar a bushel."

To show the loyalty of Mrs. Montgomery to her husband I quote the following: "When he announced his determination to leave Washtenaw County and plunge deeper into the wilderness, her reply was 'Go where you like, John. I will go with you.' She was a person of unusual sweetness of disposition and a marvelous companion."

"The first town meeting was held at Spicerville, in a log house on the banks of Spring Brook. (Records not available—probably about 1840). About this time, Mr. Montgomery, as he expresses it, 'began to dabble in politics.' Before the days of supervisors he was for three years one of the county commissioners. During this time he worked hard and successfully to get a bridge built at Eaton Rapids."

Mr. Montgomery held the office of Supervisor for several years, until the fall of 1849, when he was elected Representative to the Legislature. Having doubt as to his qualifications, he was very dubious of his success. However, he went to Lansing, and by taking a conscientious course served his constituents acceptably and well, always feeling profoundly grateful to those who had made him their standard bearer. His slogan was, "Whatever I tried to do, I strove to carry through to a successful issue."

"He began his military career soon after settling in Washtenaw County as a minuteman and had been there but one year when the Black Hawk War broke out, at which time he was made orderly sergeant in Captain Loomis' Company. The Indians were numerous and many people, becoming fearful, returned East. So general was the alarm that the authorities stopped navigation on the lake for the time being, to prevent settlers' leaving." As an orderly sergeant he mustered in men from four townships and marched the companies to Ann Arbor, but before he left for the seat of war, the celebrated Indian Chief was defeated and the men returned in peace to their firesides.

"Previous to the Toledo hostilities, Montgomery had been

commissioned as Major and at the breaking out of that demonstration was promoted to the rank of Lieut. Colonel, and was chosen by the general voice of the troops to be their leader in the campaign. They marched to Toledo, remained there three days and, as no rampant foe put in an appearance, they returned home.

"While in the Legislature he was commissioned by Governor Barry as Brigadier General, and set out organizing a militia. In Eaton Rapids the citizens were just getting ready to form a Company and a Mr. Tompkins and some others were commissioned when, by general consent throughout the State, the system was suffered to fall into disrepute." Thus, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Michigan was almost without troops.

Mr. Montgomery must have cherished individuality, as was demonstrated when he built his stone house. Shortly after locating here, he discovered that the bed of Grand River had a thick covering of sand stone which he determined to utilize at some future time. Finally locating a master mechanic skilled in this kind of architecture, he began work extricating the rock from the stream beside which it was sized, squared and dressed ready for use. Then it was transported by oxcarts to the building. There is no record as to the time required in building the structure, but the cope stone over the main entrance bears the following:

JOHN MONTGOMERY

June the 26, 1848

JOHN CLARK

Architect

This house is one of the outstanding landmarks in the state. For nearly 400 years this line of Montgomerys have played an important part in the countries in which they lived, viz: France, England, Scotland, and Ireland, and since immigrating to this country in 1805, they have held to the same tradition. For many years the principal land owners in that vicinity have been Montgomerys. They or their descendents have occupied many high offices in the state and nation and we should feel justly proud of having known them and of the fact that fate decreed that Colonel John Montgomery should be one of our stalwart pioneers.



TOP: Montgomery House, a stone house of Col. John Montgomery in Hamlin Township.

LOWER LEFT: Copestone of Montgomery House; date—June 26, 1848.

LOWER RIGHT: Cheney Tavern, a stagecoach stop on the Eaton Rapids-Lansing road.



UPPER LEFT: Henry A. Shaw, Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1858-1859. UPPER RIGHT: James Galiery, a settler of 1837. LOWER LEFT: Althea Spicer Knight Waldron, first white woman to cook a meal in Eaton Rapids. LOWER RIGHT: Olive Jane Darling Doak, first white child born in Eaton Rapids Township.

May I be permitted at this time to relate a couple of anecdotes which might produce a smile from the most fastidious. I cannot vouch for the former but can the latter.

POLITICAL SUPREMACY

Two of John Montgomery's very dear pioneer friends were Jehriel Toles and Alfred Parker, both living in the adjoining township of Aurelius, Ingham County. Mr. Toles was of a very sedate nature, while Mr. Parker was very quick of action and speech. It seems both gentlemen had, at different times, been elected to the office of Justice of the Peace and naturally acquired the prefix of Squire to their names. It so happened they opposed one another for this office, Mr. Parker defeating Mr. Toles by one vote. Being rather jubilant over the result of the election, Mr. Parker remarked rather freely, "Squire Toles, Squire Toles; nice man, nice man; not very pop'lar, not very pop'lar."

SHE WANTED TO MAKE IT STRONG

A child living in Onondaga accompanied her grandparents to Eaton Rapids and the route traveled passed the Montgomery's stone house. On approaching it the grandmother remarked to the child, "I want you to see this old house. It's very old; yes, very old!" This created interest in the child's mind to no small degree. A short time afterward she came over here with her parents, her girl chum being asked to make the trip with them. As they drew near to the old house she remembered what her grandmother had told her in regard to it and was anxious to impart the news to her chum. She said, "Do you see that old house? It's very old, yes, awful old. Why, Jesus Christ and his disciples once lived there."

It is doubtful if any family in the State gained any greater prestige than the Montgomery family. John's five brothers came to Michigan shortly after he did and settled in that locality. By the older generation it is spoken of as the Montgomery Plains, the name given it because hundreds of acres of land were taken up by the family from the Government. It is not right and proper that the family should be entirely forgotten; therefore, the writer records the following data as given him by a member of the family. It must, therefore, be authentic.

John's family: Alvira, Johnson, Scott and Albert. Scott was a successful farmer and lived on the old homestead.

Johnson's family: Peter Dudley, Helen, Amanda, Celestia, Cal, Ezra, Jock and Robert M. Helen married Grover Baldwin, a prosperous farmer of Onondaga. Amanda married Julius Hume-ston, our reliable night watch for many years. Another duty he performed efficiently was the care of the kerosene street lamps. The title "the old lamp lighter" could be applied to him with reverence. The son, Stephen, was a graduate of our public schools and the law school of the University of Michigan. He holds a position in the Michigan Supreme Court at Lansing, serving as a law research clerk for the several members of the Court. Celestia married ex-State Senator William Miller. Cal married Joseph C. Shaw, an agent of the Grand River Valley Railroad. Robert was a Supreme Court Judge in Michigan and a Judge in the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

Thomas' family: Eliza, Philinda, Mary and Warren.

Robert's family: Alonzo, Almeron, Clifford, Sarah, Fred and Frank. Clifford has one son living, Arthur, a journeyman. Almeron has a daughter living, Mrs. Bina Keefer of Hamlin township.

William's family: Elmira, Martin V., Richard A., William B., Louisa and Malvina. Martin V. and Richard A. were doubtless the best-known, as they were prominent attorneys in this city and later moved to Lansing. Martin V. Montgomery was admitted to the bar in 1865 and Richard A. in 1872. The former became Commissioner of Patents at Washington, and later Judge of the District Court, District of Columbia. William B. was in the insurance business in Detroit. Politically they were Democrats, although Robert M. wandered from the fold and was a Republican.

Alexander had no family. Alex, as he was better known, was the youngest of the pioneer brothers. There is no record as to his acquiring any land in this vicinity, and undoubtedly he lived with one of his brothers, as he was not married until late in life.

In 1894 he and his brother William joined the prospectors in the search for gold in California, making the trip "around the Horn" (via South America) in a sailing vessel and being at one time fifty-six days without the sight of land. Whether they

made a stake no one seems to know. He served his country during the Civil War.

We of the younger generation looked upon Mr. Montgomery as a gentleman of leisure. He was of medium height, stockily built, wore a full beard, was very neat in appearance and might be taken for a man of considerable means. He was single and lived with a bachelor friend, Charles Ranney, four miles east on the Plains road, (now the Albert Gustafsen farm).

His hangout was Orlando Meacham's drinking emporium, where he and his cronies met and played cards. As to his imbibing, it was very limited if at all. (Why I go at length in my introduction is that the reader may be able to visualize the man and the incidents I am about to relate which happened at the southwest corner of South Main and West Knight Streets).

He was a dry joker—in every sense of the word as the name implies. He generally worked his pranks on strangers and they clicked with exact precision as though they had been previously planned. These are true happenings: It was a very warm day in August. Mr. Montgomery came out the side door of Meacham's and happened to encounter a traveling salesman carrying two heavy grips, and headed toward the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern depot. Montgomery remarked, "My friend, you seem to be in a hurry." "Yes, I am," replied the salesman. "I want to catch that train for Lansing." "If I was going to Lansing," continued Montgomery, "I would take the boat, nice ride, beautiful scenery and they serve fine meals, arriving in Lansing about 9:00 o'clock." "Never heard of it—where do I get the boat?" asked the salesman. "Down by the red mill, and the boat leaves in about ten minutes," replied Montgomery, looking at his watch and pointing toward the Mill. The salesman thanked Montgomery for the information, bade him "Good afternoon," changed his course, and arriving at the mill asked the employee, "Where is the boat that goes to Lansing?" "What boat?" inquired the workman. The salesman then told of the conversation he had with a gentleman up on the street, who advised him to go to Lansing by boat in preference to the train. "There is no boat plying between here and Lansing. You have been taken in by one

of those jokers up town. I'll bet you have been talking to Alex Montgomery."

Just then the engine whistled as the train was leaving the station. The stranger retraced his steps and looked diligently for his informant, but he had vanished.

On another day the fellows were having their usual game of cards when two dogs were having an argument out by the side door. Everybody rushed to the scene of action to witness the encounter. The janitor, after scrubbing the floor of the place, had left the mop in the pail of muddy water just outside of the door. A stranger, immaculately clad, was one of the on-lookers. Montgomery took in the situation: there stood his victim; there sat the pail of muddy water; the stage was set for immediate action!

"Stand back," shouted Montgomery, as he grabbed the mop stick. "I'll separate them," and with a lusty swing wound the mop around the gentleman's face. Montgomery was sorry and apologized repeatedly, and the other on-lookers sympathized and couldn't see how any accident of that nature could happen. All returned to the emporium, helped clean the gentleman up, and all was forgotten.

He later married Mrs. Ella Covey—her kin living: son and daughter, Don Covey of this city and Mrs. Hazel Marshall of Jackson, and grandchildren Arthur Covey and Dorothea Menger of this city, and Richard Marshall and Catherine Woodman of Jackson.

SAMUEL HAMLIN

Samuel, son of David and Ruth Ward Hamlin, was born in Connecticut, March 1, 1779.

He remained with his parents until he reached his majority when he decided to cast his lot with the Empire State.

Shortly after the war of 1812 started, he enlisted in the army, and was assigned to the commissary department where he remained until its close.

During the conflict he had many harrowing experiences especially at the burning of Buffalo when the soldiers suffered greatly and fought bitterly to keep from being taken prisoners.

Lydia Perry was born in New Salem, Massachusetts, May 13, 1799, and at the beginning of the century moved with her parents near Elba, New York, where her father had purchased a farm.

Samuel had taken up his residence near Batavia; Lydia and he became acquainted and after a brief courtship they were married in 1815.

He leased his father-in-law's farm and two years later purchased it.

It was about equal distance between Buffalo and Batavia and so great was the demand for a hostelry that they opened their home for the convenience of travelers. (In all probability it was adjacent to the Erie Canal.)

On April 17, 1817, a son came to gladden their home, he being given the name of David. Horace was born in 1819, James Avery in 1821, Edward in 1823, Philinda in 1824, Samuel Jr., in 1826, Gilbert Sumner in 1828 and Morris in 1830.

Samuel sold his farm in 1831 and purchased one near Charroton, Orleans County, where Josephine was born.

Families were leaving continuously for the Northwest Territory and he became quite imbued with the idea and enticed his brother-in-law, Gilbert Perry, to accompany him to Michigan.

I quote from an article written by Mrs. Mary Gallery-Hamlin: "They had quite a little trouble making that journey as the cholera broke out about that time and public conveyances were stopped and most of the boats on the lake were prohibited from running."

They proceeded on foot and finally reached Jacksonburg. After prospecting a few days Samuel purchased eighty acres of land; Perry became disgusted and was not interested in making an investment.

Here is another version told me that is supposed to be authentic: "*Because of the severity of winter, navigation had been closed on Lake Erie, so they were obliged to proceed on foot. On reaching Ashtabula, Ohio, they came in contact with an epidemic of typhoid fever and were held in quarantine for two weeks. This disgusted Perry to such a degree that he returned home, but Sam continued on his journey.*"

I now quote from the Register of Deeds in Jackson County: "*Chauncey C. Lewis got the east one half of the south west one quarter of Section 34 township 2 South, range 1 west Blackman township, Jackson County, Michigan, January 4, 1831. (reference-Liber 8 of Land Patents page 16) 80 acres; Samuel Hamlin purchased from Chauncey C. Lewis the above described land—80 acres October 17, 1832 in Liber 1 of Deed page 148 for \$300.*"

David was sent to Jackson on February 18, 1833 to clear the land and make arrangements for building their cabin.

I quote from Mrs. Hamlin: "*In the year 1835, Samuel, in company with some others, took jobs on a road which the government was making between Clinton and Grand Rapids.*" (In Durant's History of Eaton County, 1880).

I quote from an article by Fred Spicer (time—June, 1836): "*Michigan was then a Territory, and without a road except the old Clinton road, which my uncle, Samuel Hamlin, and C. C. Darling had cut through from Clinton to the Thornapple River, in the northwest part of the county, the fall before the government, which had been completed and accepted, when my father, P. E. Spicer, and Daniel Bateman arrived at Jackson in the fall of 1835.*"

This "Clinton Trail" was about 100 miles in length so without further controversy we will let the matter rest.

This same year Samuel and several others made a pilgrimage here and he took up several parcels of land scattered around Eaton Rapids. He built a home on the "Hogsback Road" and moved his family here in 1838.

He was also a member of the Mill Company and was active in the different enterprises of the Company until they disposed of the property after which he turned his attention to farming.

Next of kin that are living: D. Heber's children: Mrs. Florence Walworth and Mrs. Bessie Henry of this city; W. Scott and Mrs. Alice Oliver of Lansing; Mrs. Josephine Smith of Plainwell; Mrs. Grace Hatcher and Mrs. Cora Mathews, both of Seattle, Washington.

Sam's children, Mrs. Lois Osmun of this city and Mrs. Carrie Dove of Jackson.

J. Sumner's children, Howard of this city and Mrs. Marjorie Koevit, Dayton, Ohio.

AMOS SPICER

There is no record available revealing who Amos Spicer's parents were or when he was born, so I shall be obliged to start from the place he lived at the time he migrated to Michigan, which was Middleburg, Portage County, Ohio.

Hardly a day passed that he didn't hear very favorable reports of Michigan, and when he learned that the Sam Hamlins were located there and letters from Lydia, Sam's wife, told of the many opportunities this new country offered and the probability of Jackson's becoming an industrial center, Amos became quite interested.

Amos Spicer, his brother Pierpont, and Daniel Bateman left Ohio for Michigan about the first of November, 1835, arriving in Jackson five days later. They were warmly received at the Hamlin home. Amos said he was in quest of land adjacent to a stream that would develop enough water power to operate a saw and grist mill. He was informed that in Eaton County there was Spring Brook where the Clinton Trail crosses it and Grand River, either of which streams would furnish him all of the power he would require.

It was suggested by Mr. Spicer that they make an exploration of the two streams and consider the feasibility of improving them.

It was about the tenth of November when the five, Samuel Hamlin, C. C. Darling, Amos and Pierpont Spicer and Daniel Bateman started on their pilgrimage, each one carrying a knapsack with his provisions, eating utensils, blanket and either a musket or a rifle. Darling suggested they take with them a small tent which could be set up each night for protection from the weather and which could be easily handled by two of them.

They reached Spring Brook the second day. Amos looked at the stream and was impressed with the natural advantages it possessed. He was fully convinced that there could be enough power developed to operate both his projects.

Mr. Darling had his map of Eaton County with him, and after checking it carefully they located the section lines. Amos

concluded he would purchase 160 acres in section 8 and Daniel Bateman bought the same number of acres just south of Spicers in the same section.

The next day they reached the place where the two streams met. After making a careful survey of the streams Spicer observed there was a wonderful setting for an industrial center and that a town of some prominence would be located there some day. He took up over 300 acres in section 3 Tyler township and nearly that amount in sections 33 and 34, Eaton Rapids township—to be exact, 633.55 acres in this one plot; this includes all land from Spring Brook on the north to South Street on the south and from Grand River on the east to West Street (the section line) on the west.

They returned to Jackson by way of Tompkins Center; Spicer and Bateman then went to Kalamazoo to file claim on the land they had selected before some speculator would jump their claims. They reached home the first of December.

Their one thought now was to make arrangements for their return to Michigan early in the spring.

In moving into a new country one should fortify one's self with the essentials of livelihood. While in Michigan Amos was told that pork was \$25 a hundred on the hoof so he purchased all that was available in Middleburg.

An oversized wagon was contracted for; he bought two yoke of oxen and employed Daniel Bateman and Charles Hanchett to drive the teams through with a load of household goods. They were accompanied by Pierpont Spicer driving a one-horse wagon, two cows and a calf as escort. They made the trip in two weeks and had many experiences to relate. On account of bad roads they were forced to unload three times, ran out of food, drank milk for their sustenance, and let the stock graze by the roadside.

It was about the middle of April when the Spicer family, consisting of Amos, Eunice, Freddie, Ben, Althea and their baby, left for Michigan. Upon reaching Jackson, their wives and children were left with the Hamlins and the men, including Pierpont Spicer, Daniel Bateman, Charles Hanchett, Samuel Hamlin, C. C. Darling, and several others left for Spring Brook, the point

where Spicer's land was located. Ben made a survey of the place where the two streams joined and decided to act on his father-in-law's suggestion in regard to establishing a store, and informed him that as soon as a building was erected at that point he would stock it with merchandise and open up a trading post.

They first built a double cabin, with puncheon for the first floor and box-wood bark for the upper floor, and a bunk house for the help. The Spicers moved to their new home about the first of June.

The first thing on Amos' mind was building the saw mill, erecting the dam and excavating the race. Amos had enough men in his employ to work on all projects at one time. The timbers were all prepared and men came from a distance of twenty miles to the raising. They came the day before, helped raise the next day, had a dance that night and went home the third day. In October the hum of the busy saw was heard as it severed logs from the virgin forests into lumber. This was a gala day in the little settlement and it was unanimously agreed that in the future it would be known as "Spicer's Mills." P. E. Spicer and Ben Knight were boss sawyers.

They next prepared lumber for the Ben Knight store in Eaton Rapids. The Mill Company had been formed, consisting of Amos and Pierpont Spicer, C. C. Darling and Samuel Hamlin. As pioneers were taking up land so rapidly, it was wisely decided to erect a grist mill more in the central portion of the inhabited area, so Mr. Spicer abandoned the idea of erecting one at Spicer's Mills until a later date and they concentrated their efforts in building one in Eaton Rapids.

The saw mill was kept busy for the next few months preparing material for the new project, which was rushed to completion and in January, 1838, its mill stones were grinding kernels of golden grain. Ben Knight worked in the mill part time and Mrs. Knight ran the store.

Up to this time nothing has been said in regard to the road leading from Spicer's Mills to Eaton Rapids. Spring Brook's course was to the northeast and on account of the low lands adjacent thereto, the road was built in a more easterly direction

until it came to a rise of ground running due north that was covered with burr oak trees. These trees could be cut much more easily than the dense forest so they evidently built the road through this burr oak grove, as it was in direct line to Eaton Rapids. This road has always been known as the "Hog's Back."

As to the mill stones—I have always been led to believe they were taken from the Amos Spicer farm, as it was vested with almost every kind of rock formation. There is no record of anything of that nature being transported from Jackson to Spicer's Mills or who prepared the stones for grinding. If they were from this farm Mr. Spicer undoubtedly did the work himself as he was a millwright.

Let me quote from the Fred Spicer article: Durant's History of Eaton County—1880. "How well do I remember the first time I saw the ground Eaton Rapids stands on; Charles Hanchett, Daniel Bateman, Father, and some other men besides myself with two ox-sleds and four yoke of oxen drew the two run of millstones that have ground flour for bread for almost forty years."

In 1875 there were articles written by two pioneers for the Eaton Rapids Journal, one by James Gallery on Eaton Rapids Township and the other by Fred Spicer on Hamlin Township. I have taken bits from both and moulded them into the above material. It is as authentic as it is humanly possible for it to be, as there are differences in the time of certain happenings.

Amos built the grist mill at Spicerville (name changed in the early '50's) to care for the needs of the farmers south and west of him.

He died April 5, 1856.

His son Fred became owner of the farm and mill property. In later years the gristmill was operated by his son-in-law, Oliver D. Herrick.

Next of kin that are living: Fred Spicer's grandchildren, Floyd Brainerd of Battle Creek and Harry Brainerd of Lansing. Carrie Spicer-Herrick's grandchildren, Robert of Flint, Mrs. Genevieve Latchaw of Charlotte, Linton C. and Mrs. Wilma Kowalk of Eaton Rapids.

DANIEL H. BATEMAN

Daniel H. Bateman was a native of New York; the family moved to Ohio in the early '30's. Like many others he was anxious to explore more of the Northwest Territory, and early in 1835 joined his uncle, Amos Spicer and Pierpont Spicer of Middlebury, Ohio, and the three journeyed to Jacksonburg, Michigan, where they sojourned with the Samuel Hamlins; Amos and Samuel were brother-in-law and uncle of Daniel.

They had heard many favorable reports about Michigan, its fertile soil and huge forests, so decided to make an investigation themselves. Amos and Daniel purchased land in section 8, Tyler township, cleared the title on their holdings at the land office in Kalamazoo and returned home.

Daniel came with the Spicer colony the following spring and was employed by his uncle Amos during the building of his cabin and sawmill.

One evening, when the cattle returned from their feeding for the day, there was one missing.

Fearing the heifer might be down in a mire hole, Amos told Dan to go in search of her the next morning. As the cows came from the east the night before, he started early on his mission in that direction. On reaching Grand River he heard cow bells on the other side; he removed his boots and pants, forded the stream and soon located the missing critter.

He heard some one chopping in the distance, followed the sound, and soon came to the farm of Col. John Montgomery who was cutting rails for a fence.

They exchanged greetings and learned the section in which each of their farms was located; the Colonel had become a resident about six months before the arrival of the Spicers. Amos was somewhat surprised, as he supposed they were the first settlers in the township.

Mr. Bateman built his cabin the following year (1837) and in 1838 was married to Rebecca Ann Train of Leoni, Jackson County, and brought his bride to their cabin where they took up housekeeping. They were exceedingly lucky as they had neighbors in practically every direction.

Next of the kin that are living: Ruth Ann Wells' children,

Charles and John of Eaton Rapids; Norman P. Bateman's children, William Bateman, Mrs. Bernice Russell, Mrs. Jennie Underhill and Mrs. Geno Yarger of Dimondale, Mrs. Emma Rey of Sunfield and Leonard Bateman of Seattle, Washington; Harriet A. Mellon's children, Mrs. Nina Voss of Fairmount, N. D., and Glenn Mellon of Campbell, Minnesota; Clara F. McKale's sons, Harry B. of Lansing and Frederick of Tucson, Arizona; Leonard T. Bateman's daughter, Mrs. Ruth Wise of Jackson; Rebecca Ann Lindsey's daughter, Mrs. Madge Smith of Alden, Michigan, and Sarah Jane Beebe-Freeman's granddaughter, Muriel Beebe of Grand Rapids. (She is the daughter of Hosmer P. Beebe).

His wife passed away and he later married Mrs. Alice Van Valkenburgh. They had one child, W. Seward, who was blind; he finished in three courses at the School for the Blind, at Lansing, broom-making, cane-seating and piano-tuning. He was very proficient in the latter and made that his life work. He died June 1, 1946.

Next of kin that are living: Mrs. Bateman's daughters, Mrs. Elva Patterson of Vermontville, Mrs. Lina Knestrick of Battle Creek, and Mrs. Leora Conant of this city.

C. C. DARLING

C. C. Darling's first entrance into this history was his connection with Samuel Hamlin in cutting through the Old Clinton Trail.

There is no record as to who had the contract from the Government for this project, Darling or Hamlin, and when it was started. As to its completion, Fred Spicer says it was in 1835.

Darling came here in 1836 with the Spicer colony, became a member of the Mill Company and surveyed the village, it being the original plat.

In 1839 he was conducting a small grocery store in a shanty near the present location of the Congregational Church. He sold whiskey but was very cautious about disposing of it to the Indians who were at that time encamped on the land where Thomas S.S. Havens built his home (the present Glyn Shimmin home).

He moved to Lansing but as to his activity in that place I am unable to find any record. He died in 1880.

A personal correspondence with the Register of Deeds in Jackson gives me the following information. *"In regard to C. C. Darling, surveyor, I have some time in the past seen the name on recorded plats or maps that I have come in contact with, but am unable to give you dates as to his surveying years in this county."*

BENJAMIN F. KNIGHT

Benjamin F. Knight, son of Joseph and Martha Knight, was born July 12, 1807. At the age of twelve his parents moved from New York State to Ohio where he grew to manhood. On April 17, 1834, he was married to Miss Althea Spicer, oldest daughter of Amos and Lucretia Spicer.

In 1836 the Spicers immigrated to Michigan, and the Knights joined the caravan. They settled in Tyler township at a point where the "Clinton Trail" crosses Spring Brook.

Mr. Spicer, who had been to Michigan previously and taken up land at this point and also where Spring Brook and Grand River join, suggested to him that he build a store at the latter point as it would someday be a place of prominence.

As soon as lumber was available from the Spicer saw-mill he built his store; this was the following spring. Mr. Spicer and C. C. Darling built homes there, also.

In 1838 several more families settled there and built homes. The place had been given the name of Eaton Rapids; the Government had established a post office, and Mr. Knight was appointed Postmaster and also Justice of the Peace.

Pioneers were taking up land rapidly, the village was growing, and with the trade of the Indians and those fording the river, his store became quite a trading post.

In 1839 Amos Hamlin built the Eaton Rapids Hotel on the site of the municipal building.

Mr. Knight was elected to the House of Representatives in the fall of 1843 and was a member of the Legislature when the capital was changed from Detroit to Lansing.

Rumor has it that Mr. Knight sold his vote for eighty acres of land and that one vote would have made Eaton Rapids the selection. This vain rumor has been passed down from generation

to generation but the report of the voting, which follows, proves that there was no truth to the statement. This vote is taken from S. W. Durant's History of Ingham and Eaton Counties, published in 1880.

Those places considered and the number of votes each received were:

	YES	NO		YES	NO
Ann Arbor	18	44	Dexter	17	44
Albion	27	34	Eaton Rapids	27	34
Battle Creek	23	38	Grand Blanc	23	35
Byron	27	31	Jackson	27	31
Corruna	17	44	Lyons	30	28
Detroit	18	43	Marshall	29	32

James Seymour, an influential citizen in the "Town of Michigan" (now Lansing), was of the opinion that Lyons was not centrally enough located, and after several flattering concessions to the Legislature the vote for Lyons was reconsidered and another ballot was taken and a new site was selected by a vote of 35 to 27.

The law under which the Capitol was removed (No. 60 Session Laws of 1847) reads as follows:

"The seat of Government of the State shall be the township of Lansing in the County of Ingham."

The writer has been unable to find any record as to the naming of the place in which the capitol was to be established. It was evidently derived from the township in which it was located.

In 1852, Mr. Knight made an overland trip to California where he sojourned two years, returning in January, 1854.

There were five children in the family: Amos, Edwin, William, Martha and Lucretia.

Mr. Knight died January 9, 1855.

THE GALLERY FAMILY

Robert Gallery was born in the town of Armagh, County Down, Ireland, about 1765. At an early age he acquired a life lease of a seven-acre farm. He was a weaver by trade and an artist in weaving Irish linen, linen table clothes, fancy bed-spreads and carpets.

Patrick, the son, was born in the same village on March 18, 1790. He learned the art of weaving from his father and at the age of eighteen he became a miller serving as an apprentice in the grist mill of his Uncle James Savage. He joined the British Army and served in England, Scotland and the West Indies.

War was not to his liking and after his discharge he came to this country settling in Caledonia, N.Y., where he obtained employment in a grist mill. He became acquainted with a pretty Scotch girl, Miss Anne Martin, and they were married in 1816. James, the first child, was born in 1817. As time went on, the following children were born: John in 1818, William in 1820, Mary Ann in 1822, Alice in 1824, George in 1826, and Edmund in 1829.

The family came to Michigan in 1836 and settled in Clinton, as there was a wooden mill located there and he could obtain employment.

Patrick was anxious to locate some government claims in order to create a home in this land of promise. He was told that the country adjacent to Grand River was very fertile, so he and James set out for Jackson. There they met a man by the name of A. F. Finch, who made a business of selecting and locating lands for immigrants.

They made arrangements with him to purchase for them a quarter section of heavily timbered land, after which they returned to Clinton.

In the spring of 1837 they received their grant from the land office at Kalamazoo; it was located in section 29, Eaton Rapids township, about three miles north of Spicer's Mill.

Patrick and James came to look after their newly-acquired possession; they were well pleased with the selection and soon they returned home.

About the first of November they started with their household goods and families to build their cabin in the Michigan wilds. They reached here about the middle of November and were taken into the home of Lawrence Howard, three miles west of here on the town line. There they lived while they cut logs and rolled up a cabin, hauling white wood boards for the roof and floors from Spicer's Mills.

The grist mill was nearing completion and Mr. Spicer, hearing that Patrick Gallery was an expert miller, employed him to assist in setting the stones and other minute details. There was but one run of stone commonly called rock, but that was the extent of the equipment in most of the mills at that time.

During the winter of 1838-39 James ran the grist mill, boarding with the Ben Knight family.

In 1840 he secured a position in the grist mill at Clinton where he remained for eight years.

Something that grieved him greatly was the loss of his mother in September, 1842. An unusual circumstance happened at the time, there being two other deaths, John Bentley, one of the stable pioneers, and a child of a blacksmith. Here were three funerals and three bereaved families at the same time under one sermon, conducted by W. W. Crane, a pioneer clergyman.

In 1846 George W. Spencer and Benjamin O. Davis started a foundry. James could see he was failing in health rapidly so concluded to quit milling. He contacted Mr. Spencer and bought his interest in the firm. Later he bought out Mr. Davis' interest in the foundry and commenced making improvements in his shop. He erected another building and installed machinery for the manufacture of various articles, added a lumber yard, and set a water wheel.

In November, 1848, he married Miss Eliza M. Hamilton, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Hamilton of Salem, Washtenaw County. He and his bride set up housekeeping in the late Dr. S. M. Wilkins' home, (this house was located on the present site of Max Smith's Electric Shop) until the Canal Street house was built (now the Jack Jardine residence).

Mr. Gallery was certainly a wide-awake business man, for in the County Directory published in 1872 he advertises the following: "foundry, machinist, agricultural implements, sash, doors and blinds, lumber, lath, shingles, etc., brass castings made to order."

William A. Hall and his son John T. were molders and came here from Albion in 1854 to work for him. John V. Stowell came from Ohio and later "Doc" Nichols also came from there.

James' children: Alice Marie was born in 1849, married Major George M. Anderson, a solicitor of funds in building railroads. James Herbert was born in 1851. He became an excellent pharmacist and held many responsible positions. He married Miss Alice Carlton of Brooklyn, New York, in 1878, who passed away one year later. In 1894 he married Mrs. Flora Clark-Belnap. He was an expert accountant, cashier of the Union Mutual Life Insurance Company of Maine, with headquarters in Chicago. He was in the collection department in the law office of Wright-Cummins and Wright, Des Moines, Iowa. He served as Office Manager of the Jackson Cracker Company of Jackson and H. P. Webster & Sons, lumber and coal dealers here. He was elected Justice of the Peace, serving two terms and was Postmaster eight years, during Woodrow Wilson's term as President. Ida Lucretia was born in 1853, married Albert B. Cummins, who became Governor of Iowa and later served his state as United States Senator for a number of years. Kate was born in 1856, married Herbert F. Reynolds who was associated with his brother, William H. in the dry good business. Arthur Douglas, born in 1861, was married to Miss Anna Mead in 1897. After his graduation from the city schools in 1877 he joined the firm, it being known as James Gallery and Son. His father passed away in 1882 and he took over the business for the family, and it was operated under the name of James Gallery's son. He, like his father, was very progressive and branched out in the foundry business, producing large castings, an exhibit of which may be seen in the three pillars in front of the Michigan State Bank building (now the Ed French barber shop), which bears the name James Gallery's Son.

In 1893, he formed a company of local business men and purchased the Bissell Plow works of South Bend, Indiana, of which he was secretary and manager. There was some misunderstanding as to the name or title and the name was changed to the Monarch Plow Company, which he operated until 1903, when the property was sold to the Horner Brothers Woolen Mill.

In 1904 he purchased the Tuscola County Advertiser at Caro, Michigan, which he published until his death. It is now edited by his two sons.

Next of kin living: Alice Anderson's daughter, Mrs. Alice Harris of East Lansing; Ida Cummins' daughter, Kate Rawson, of Des Moines, Iowa; Arthur's children, James and Douglas of Caro, Michigan, and Arlene Black of Lansing; George Gallery's granddaughter (Edward's daughter) Mrs. Maude Olney, and William's daughter, Miss Grace Gallery, both of Eaton Rapids.

The Gallery's were pioneers and were anxious to see the living conditions improved and the morale of the little village raised to the highest plane possible.

Mr. Gallery was one of the substantial citizens of his time and for nearly fifty years held the confidence of the populace in this community. The many offices he held while the village was gaining prominence speak volumes for his integrity and popularity.

The Gallery's were Congregationalists, and when the present church was being built Mr. Gallery gave freely of his time in assisting in every way to help erect the beautiful Gothic edifice (the church was a replica of one of the churches in "Old Plymouth") with the one thought in mind that the interior be kept intact, and that its walls and outer appearance would never be defaced, but would stand as a symbol of righteousness and always remain the landmark it was intended to be by its founders, the first Christian society in the village and the first church erected. Peace to their dust.

Politically, the Gallery's were staunch Jeffersonian Democrats. At one time the Republicans were considering seriously nominating Senator Cummins for the Presidency of the United States. James H. was asked this question—"If Senator Cummins should receive the nomination for the President on the Republican ticket for whom would you cast your ballot?" His reply—"Don't think for one minute that I would hesitate to vote the ticket that would make my sister Ida 'The First Lady of the Land'".

THE DARLING FAMILY

Simon Darling, Sr.

If Simon Darling had continued his journey in 1829, and Eaton County had been his objective, he would have been the first settler in this county by four years.

He left his native state that fall for the Territory of Michigan and stopped at the village of Dexter where he remained two years, then returned to Massachusetts. The wanderlust got the better of him and in April, 1833, he returned to Dexter with his wife and three sons, Allen, Albert, and Alva. In those days extensive preparation had to be made before embarking into the wilderness with a family and Darling did this to the best that his ability and finances would permit.

In so many historical sketches read by the writer, this locality was referred to as "the fertile Grand River valley." In 1836, Darling and a companion by the name of Branch became land seekers, and Darling acquired a homestead in Section 12 (present location of Grace Church), built his cabin (16' x 22'), and returned to Dexter.

It was a beautiful day in November, 1837, when he loaded the wagon with all of their earthly goods and started for their new home. The weather soon changed. Rain beat down on the little band, and they became drenched to the skin with practically no protection from the storm. On they went, road almost impassable, streams swollen,—and after a few days' travel, the village of Leslie was finally reached. Here Whitney Creek was over its banks and had to be forded. With extra precaution he placed his wife on a high chest, the three boys in a tub, and with a prayer in his heart plunged into the swirling stream, the oxen swimming, and Darling wading with the water up to his arm pits. The opposite bank was finally reached with no casualties. The next night but one they reached the cabin of Colonel John Montgomery (being the seventh day since leaving Dexter), the first settler in Hamlin township, where the usual pioneer hospitality was exhibited to the uttermost.

The next morning they left for their cabin in the dense forest; they arrived there before dark, lighted a fire in the old Dutch fireplace, and soon the smoke was rising from the clay-stick chimney. This was a signal that another family had braved the harrowing experiences of the pioneer and had come to carve its destiny in the Michigan wilderness.

As the family gathered around the table to partake of their frugal meal, Darling offered a prayer to the Almighty for their

safe journey and their health, and asked His continued blessings that their lives be spared and His mantle of love hover around their "Home-Sweet-Home."

For the next few months time was occupied in clearing land, planting the spring crops, and when the beautiful maple gave forth its sap an abundant supply of both maple and sugar was harvested.

Game was plentiful. The Indians, who were settled all around them, were peaceful. One night he was awakened by sustained war whoops; he dressed hastily fearing the worst, and opening the cabin door, slipped out into the night. There was no uprising against the whites, but the Indians were wild with excitement saying that General Cass had made a treaty with the red men, who were to leave and go beyond the Mississippi River. (Indian Territory—Oklahoma). The time had come and many of them refused to leave; soldiers had arrived to compel them to go. Some ran away, some went peacefully, while others fought.

Up to this time bears were killed by the Indians, but after their departure, the bears became a menace, ruining crops and killing stock.

The men bought buck skins from the Indians, and their wives made them into breeches, which proved quite durable.

An amusing incident occurred to one of Simon's neighbors. He was working in damp snow; his buck-skin breeches became wet, stretched, and came down over his boots, impeding his progress. He cut them off. That evening, sitting around the fireplace, the breeches shrank and the good wife was obliged to sew on that portion which he had cut off during the day.

Olive Darling, the first white child to see the light of day in Eaton Rapids township, was born in 1839. Twin boys, Simon and Fisher arrived in 1841, Elsie in 1844, and Mary six years later.

It was the writer's good fortune to know four of this estimable family well, Albert, Simon, Olive and Elsie, but more especially the ladies; two finer women were never in our midst. They were devoted Christians, and in my mind's eye I can see them wending their way to services on Sunday morning.

Elsie was the more aggressive of the two, being a leader in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Pioneer Club, U & I, and History Clubs. By her pleasing personality and winning ways she was to me the second "Susan B. Anthony."

Next of kin that are living: Allen's son, Frank of Beulah; Albert's daughter, Mrs. Pearl Dierdorf of Ovid; Olive's son, Arch Doak of this city and his children, Mrs. Doris Hudson of Leonidas and Paul of this city; Simon's children, Horace of Gratiot County, Edward and Mrs. Ethel Railer, both of this city.

JOHN E. CLARK

John E. Clark was the first actual resident in Eaton Rapids township, acquiring a half section of land in Section 22 in 1836, and in February the following year he moved his family into their log cabin.

Like all pioneers, his hardships were numerous, but he was of that temperament that nothing daunted him. He cleared his land quickly and, being of the aggressive type, had several acres of his land under cultivation, the products of which brought other pioneers to his door, not only for the sustenance of life, but to procure seed for planting. This gave him precedence in the township, and by skillful management he created a substantial foundation for his increasing prosperity.

Wild game was exceedingly plentiful and Mr. Clark loved to relate the following incident: While working in a field one day he heard a commotion among his swine, and upon investigation saw one of his porkers in the embrace of a large bear. At the sight of Clark the bear dropped the hog and attacked him. By quick maneuvering Clark jumped, caught the limb of a nearby tree and swung out of danger, kicking old bruin on the nose in his ascent. The confusion attracted the attention of Daniel Champlin, the hired man, who came running with a rifle and fired, but just wounded the animal. In a few days "Old Bruin" returned and was shot; his hide was removed, tanned, and made into a fine robe.

When the law went into effect relative to drug stores and saloons being obliged to furnish bond for the authority to sell

liquor, Mr. Clark was bondsman for several firms in that business in our city, for which he was handsomely remunerated.

At his death he was the wealthiest person in the township. There being no near kin, Mrs. Carey Ranney, who grew up in the neighborhood and befriended him, was named the beneficiary.

THE OLD CLINTON TRAIL

Without a doubt one of the most common things referred to in this vicinity pertaining to the pioneer days is the Clinton road or Old Clinton Trail. It was built in 1835 by the United States under Territorial rule by C. C. Darling and Samuel Hamlin, who cut this road through from Clinton to the Thornapple River and who were also very active in the laying out and development of Eaton Rapids.

The Clinton road starts at Lenawee County about fifty miles southeast of Jackson. It came out of Jackson on what is now known as M-50. As you leave the city limits of Jackson, on the east side of the highway is the old Clinton Tavern. This was not only a hostelry but a trading center at which the Indians and white men met, the former bringing furs, blankets and other articles of their craftsmanship to exchange for provisions.

From here the general direction of the road was north and northwest, passing through Tompkins Center to the road running north, just west of the George C. Griffith farm. Continuing this same course north, it crossed the base line, entering Hamlin township in Section 35, and intersected the present M-50 and M-99 on the section line between 21 and 22. Its direction was the same again, crossing modern M-50 near the Perkey school house in Eaton Township. From there its course was straight northwest across the southwest corner of the township of Benton and through Chester and Sunfield Townships.

It will be noted that neither Eaton Rapids, Charlotte, nor Spicerville was in direct line of this trail. There is a good reason as none of these places had even been considered at this time.

A few years later it was thought advisable to change the route, as it ran diagonally across the county thereby cutting up the farms badly; the general idea was to follow section lines as closely as possible.

At the intersection of the trail and M-99 and M-50 between sections 21 and 22 in Hamlin township a tablet has been sunk in a huge boulder bearing the following words:

CLINTON TRAIL

An Indian path later used by the pioneer settlers of Michigan and marked by Eaton County Federation of Women's Clubs, 1937.

From this point the new route started, north to Eaton Rapids, west to Charlotte on the Eaton Rapids and Charlotte road, and north from Charlotte three miles to the angling road bearing to the left. That is the Clinton Trail.

Commencing at this point in Hamlin township, M-50 is the revised "Old Clinton Trail."

The distance between the points where John Montgomery entered Hamlin township and the Clinton Trail is between six and eight miles. The trail was completed first, and had Mr. Montgomery chosen to make his pilgrimage by a more southern route, he and his companions could have been relieved of the laborious task of opening a new road for a distance of twenty miles.

PLANK ROADS

In 1848 the Jackson and Michigan (now Lansing) Plank Road was chartered and the citizens of our little village commenced their first struggle for a thoroughfare of a public character that would put them in communication with the rest of mankind. Mason was equally as anxious to have the road pass through their town. The promoters thought at one time it would be better to pass mid-way between the two places, but these propositions are always engineered in such a way that those places furnishing the most money generally receive the benefit.

The Eaton Rapids Plank Road Company was incorporated for \$75,000 to build a plank road from Jackson via Eaton Rapids to Lansing, incorporators being Gardner T. Rand, Horace Hamlin and Benjamin Knight. The citizens of Eaton Rapids had striven faithfully to have the road located through their village and were successful. The charter of this company was amended in March, 1849, extending its privileges. A large amount of stock

was taken and the right-of-way donated for seven miles southeast of our village. Five miles of road was grubbed and graded by our citizens, seven of whom had bound themselves to do that work, and an association of seventeen of the business men was formed to pay for the completion of the work by an equal assessment upon their property. It cost them \$1,230 aside from private and other donations. James Gallery was secretary of that association. Among other members were N. J. Seelye, B. F. Bailey, Henry A. Shaw, Alanson Harwood and David Stirling.

A daily mail was carried over the route in a four-horse stage-coach which frequently had twelve passengers on the inside and ten on the top. While Eaton Rapids derived no special benefit from the location of the route through it, yet it enjoyed being upon a main line of travel and being referred to as one of the thriving villages in central Michigan.

It was a task to build these plank roads. The trees had to be felled and the stumps and roots taken out in order to form a level road bed. As a rule, four strong girders were set lengthwise on the roadbed across which heavy planks sixteen feet in length, one foot wide, and two inches thick were laid, securely held in place by wrought iron spikes.

Besides the regular fare paid by passengers for transportation, they were quite often required to pay a specific amount at toll gates which were placed at intervals along the route. Taverns were located approximately seven miles apart. At each tavern a stagecoach barn was located, where a change of horses was made; in this way fresh teams were always available and the coaches were able to operate on schedule. Besides the regular stables for the horses, a large door was cut in the main part of the barn to enable the stage coach to be sheltered in case of a heavy storm. On this route, stops were located at the following places: Van Horn's, Berryville, Onondaga, Eaton Rapids, and Cheney Tavern. There is but one of these old landmarks left, a small portion of the latter tavern and the stage coach barn. If you wish to visit these, follow these directions: two and one-quarter miles north of the Grace Church on M-99, the Skinner school house is located on the west side of the road. On the next farm you will see the remnants of the old tavern on the east side of the road

and the barn on the west side.

As the years passed, the roads began to need repairs and became an expensive proposition to maintain and they, too, had to pass into history, when the steam railroads began supplying our principal means of transportation. The firm of Hibbard and Burrell of Detroit and Jackson established through lines of mail and passenger coaches on several plank roads in this vicinity and while there is no record, they probably held the contract to furnish the transportation through here.

EARLY ROADS

By various acts of the Legislature the construction of different roads was authorized. The following Acts are those that affect Eaton Rapids and the date of their authorization. March 19, 1845: Clinton Road from Jackson to Saranac (Ionia County) through Eaton Rapids and Charlotte.

On April 3, 1848: an Act authorized Commissioners to lay out a State road from Albion, Calhoun County to Eaton Rapids. In all probability this is the present M-99.

On the same date: 2,000 acres of internal improvement lands to be sold and proceeds expended on a road between Duck Lake and Eaton Rapids. The Commissioners were Jesse Crowell, Marvin Hanna and Samuel Weeks. There is no doubt but that authorization was consummated, but as to the procedure of the route there is some conjecture; it could have gone east where it joined the Albion road, north via Narrow Lake to the Olivet road, or north and east by section lines to the same point.

RAILROADS

There is very little information in regard to the Michigan Central Railroad but I quote the following from *History of Ingham and Eaton Counties*, published in 1880: "*The Grand River Valley or the Grand Rapids Division of the Michigan Central Railroad passes through portions of five rich and well-developed counties and is an important road. It operates between Jackson and Grand Rapids, passes through the villages of Eaton Rapids, Charlotte and Hastings, is ninety-four miles in length with first-class connections at the terminal. The first train on the road ran on July 4, 1870.*"

To continue the quotation: "*A special grant of a number of sections of land was made to aid in the construction of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern line from North Lansing to Lansing, to which latter point it was completed in 1863, the distance being only one mile. The rights of the company south of Lansing were assigned to the North Central Michigan Railroad Company in 1866. This latter company filed articles of association November 12, 1866, and constructed the line from Lansing to Jonesville on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern road. It was completed from Jonesville to Albion January 7, 1872, to Eaton Rapids September 30, 1872, and to Lansing January 13, 1873. The road is owned and operated by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Company, but the name under which all legal business is transacted is still Northern Michigan Central.*"

On account of the numerous curves, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad was referred to as the "Ramshorn."

In connection with the building of this road the older generation points to the late Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa with a considerable amount of pride. He was a young surveyor and dragged the chain many miles when this road was graded.

The two roads were consolidated in December, 1927, and are now operated under the New York Central system.

EARLY FAMILIES

THE ALLYN FAMILY

Israel M. Allyn, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Israel Allyn (he being named for his father) was born in Connecticut in 1818; a year later the family moved to Ohio.

The father came here in 1836 and took up several hundred acres of land in Section 8 and 17 Tyler Township, which he later divided with members of his immediate family; he never took up a residence in this state.

The son, Israel, was married in 1840, and brought his bride here, locating on the farm allotted to him by his father; this was one mile south of Spicerville. Directly across the road from their farm buildings was a beautiful grove of maple trees. This was cleared; tables, swings and teeters were installed and it was open to the public. Many people and both day and Sunday Schools, took advantage of this hospitality and it was a rare treat to attend a picnic held in "Allyn's Woods."

In those early days they had no hearses, but Mr. Allyn had a long double box-spring buggy and at funerals this was used to convey the coffins, the majority of which were made by his neighbor, Deacon Munn. He was a good man and a fine neighbor, and his hospitality won for him scores of friends.

Next of kin that are living: Austin Allyn's children Howard of Eaton Rapids, Katie Schultz, Onondaga and Mabel Collins of Jackson; Lucy Allen-Haite, her children, Earl Haite and Ethel Weldon, both of Eaton Rapids.

MORRIS BELKNAP

Morris Belnap was born in North East, Pennsylvania, in 1820 and moved here about 1852, purchasing a farm in Section 13 in Eaton Rapids township. He was a blacksmith by trade and operated a shop on a lot where the front half of the Spiritualist Church now stands. The back half was an opening about 20 by 20 feet, inclosed by a fence where he broke horses, since he was

a past master in this vocation as well as being an A-1 mechanic. He was one of the wealthiest men in our little village.

His son, Charles G. Belnap, was born in Pennsylvania in 1849. He came with the family to Michigan and served his apprenticeship in his father's blacksmith shop, and also became proficient as a carriage maker.

Next of kin is: Charles G.'s son, Charles M. Belnap of Battle Creek.

THE BIRNEY BROTHERS

The influx of people to our little village seems to have centered around our prosperity caused by the curative properties of our Magnetic Mineral Springs.

There was an opening for almost everybody and everything, so the Birney Brothers (Henry and Ed.) of Bunker Hill were not long in sizing up the situation and taking advantage of the dire need of an up-to-date livery. In 1870 they came here and built a large stable at the head of Hall and West Knight streets.

They were young farmer lads, possessed numerous well-matched teams of horses and with the new selection of hacks, broughams and surreys, single and double carriages, they were equipped for any and all occasions.

As at all watering places and resorts, the "idle rich" came in numbers and would pay practically any price for a conveyance. Money was easy. The charge was one dollar a person from the depots to the hotels and five dollars making a transfer from one depot to the other. Seemingly the sky was the limit.

In 1871 Frank Birney came here and purchased his brother Henry's half of the business and a short time later Ed. disposed of his portion, so Frank became the owner of a well-established business. It flourished and made money for its owner, until the Frost House (The Sanitarium) burned in 1885. The Anderson House, a four-story brick building, was filled with transients, but on account of the limited space very few persons were able to obtain treatments at the Stirling Magnetic Spring bath house and, being unable to acquire accommodations, soon left for other places and the popularity of our village was on the wane. When the Anderson House burned in 1911 that was practically

the last straw as it left the Eaton Rapids and Stirling Houses, two wooden structures, for the transients. Shortly after, these two were razed and we were left without a hostelry, but James Leonard stepped into the breach, overhauled and renovated the old Montgomery or Dodge House that stood back of the Anderson House, installed new bedroom suites on the upper floors and equipped four rooms on the ground floor with tubs and utilized the mineral water from the Arcana well for his treatments. Since his bath house was equipped with sleeping facilities for only a few persons, his patients were confined principally to those driving in from other cities. James Leonard was extremely successful, but on account of ill health he sold to Glen Bonnett of Jackson, and he in turn, a few years later, sold to Dr. Edward G. Grandy of Detroit.

As our facilities began to dwindle, all business places were feeling the slump and the Birney livery was no exception. Fewer persons sought accommodations in this line. Naturally the equipment became depleted and was not restored. He still operated his bus and dray line until he was obliged to dispose of the business on account of failing health.

During the last few years of his business career he held the contract for carrying the mail, receiving the fabulous sum of \$120 a year. Since then the top rate has been about \$1000.

This actually gave the writer an opportunity to become well-acquainted with Mr. Birney. Many times have I seen him on top of the bus—the cold rain or snow blowing forcibly. Down from the lofty seat would he clamber, seize the mail and throwing the heavy leather pouch over his shoulder, wend his way into the Post Office. His face and hands had a ruddy glow from exposure. After depositing the pouch on the table he would step close to the coal fire, warm his hands and with that ever-beaming countenance say, "Scott, it's about time to start another week," a common expression of his on a Saturday night.

There never was a more kind-hearted man than Frank Birney and I don't believe he had an enemy; his burden was never too heavy but that he could tip his hat to a lady. Make a check-up of the human race. If each of us had but one fault we would be termed sanctimonious so we'll overlook any foibles

he may have possessed and pay him the tribute he so richly deserves. Frank Birney was a gentleman.

The Birneys are about the oldest family to have a continuous residence here and John, the only one living, has the distinction of bearing out this statement. They were and are fine citizens. Jennie, the only daughter, married Ed. O'Neil of Charlotte, and died soon after her son Don was born. He founded, owns, and operates the Mission Packing Company of San Antonio, Texas. Peter held an executive position for many years with Swift and Company of Chicago, but had retired before his passing. A daughter, Mrs. Rhea Fich of Chicago, survives. John D., a pharmacist, made a success in the drug business, was civic-minded and represented the city in many diversified positions. His loyalty to the family was worthy of commendation. Both the father and mother were looked after to the uttermost—a virtue in any son's favor.

HARLOW H. CURTICE

Back in the '90's M. J. and Ella Curtice purchased a home in Petrieville. (This home was retained by Mrs. Curtice as long as she lived.) About this time a son was born. He was red-headed, freckled-faced, friendly and agreeable. Although studious, he appeared to be just an ordinary boy and no one ever dreamed that some day he would be an executive in one of the largest corporations in the world.

The subject of this sketch is Harlow H. Curtice. He finished school in the rural district, graduated from the public schools of this city in 1911, and later attended the Ferris Institute in Big Rapids, to acquire a business education.

Fate furnishes many peculiar quirks in the destiny of the human race and fortune fell beautifully to this young man's lot.

The O. H. P. Springer family resided in Petrieville and they and the Curtices were warm friends. Ida, Springer's daughter, became the wife of George Putnam—junior member of the firm of Strong and Putnam, jewelers in business here at one time. Mr. Putnam and his cousin, William Horton, opened a manufacturing establishment in Flint. This necessitated office help, and upon the suggestion of Mrs. Putnam, the firm wrote "Red"

Curtice to ascertain if he was at liberty and interested. He had just finished his course at Ferris and accepted the position.

Mr. Horton was a good judge of human nature, and soon realized that their new office man was of the highest calibre and entitled to a more lucrative position in the business world. He contacted a friend of his who was president of the A. C. Spark Plug Company and told him of Mr. Curtice's qualifications. As a result, Curtice was given a position in the office of that institution. From this point his advancement is well-known. By his persistent application of the fundamentals which made the A. C. Spark Plug a commodity worthwhile, he became its head. Later he advanced to the presidency of Buick Division of General Motors and at the annual meeting of that institution held the beginning of the year 1949, he was made a vice-president of the General Motors Corporation.

He has a brother Roy in Holt.

THOMAS W. DANIELS

A native of Rutland, Vermont, born November 11, 1832, Thomas W. Daniels moved with the family to Albion, New York, where he was reared to maturity and secured a common school education. Being desirous of having some occupation, he learned the cooper's trade and came west to seek his fortune, settling in Albion, where he secured a position in the dry goods store of Frost and Dalrymple. The following year Mr. Frost purchased the grist mill property in this village, erected a store building, procured a stock of merchandise and sent Mr. Daniels here to take charge of his interest.

In 1860 Frost and Daniels entered into a partnership in the mercantile business, operating the store in the three-story building constructed by Mr. Frost, now the showroom site (corner store) of Foster and Gibson.

In 1869 Mr. Frost sank a well that proved to be the valuable mineral water. He concluded to go into the hotel business and sold his half-interest to Mr. Daniels, who moved his stock of goods to a store north of the Central House and later purchased the building now occupied by Sage's Firestone Store. There he conducted his dry-goods business up to the time of his death.

He was a thorough business man, held many offices of trust, and watched the interest of the city as though it were his own. He was one of the wealthiest men in our community.

THE DECOURSEY FAMILY

One has just to visit either Rose Hill or Oakwood Cemeteries and there you will see scores, yes, hundreds of monuments from the DeCoursey Marble Works.

Jesse DeCoursey moved his family here from Ohio in the early '60's, and opened a marble shop on West Knight street, the present Michigan Bell Telephone Company property.

Two of his sons, Samuel and Jerome, worked with their father, and for many years it was the only shop of its kind in this immediate vicinity and it had a large patronage.

Frank, the youngest son, was an operator at the Michigan Central Railroad for a number of years.

Sam played cornet in the first band, and Frank joined it in the '80's, playing the snare drum.

The father passed on, Sam moved to Chicago, and Jerome continued the business, erecting a new shop (now the Harris Oil Company station), and operated it until his death.

The DeCoursey home that burned was on the corner of East Knight and North East Streets, the residence of Vern Canedy. Jerome built the home now owned by Viola Foster on East Knight Street.

LACEY T. DISBROW

"Born 40 years too soon"

Some people are born great, some achieve greatness, while others have greatness thrust upon them. Some are born rich, others in poverty; some acquire knowledge easily while others bone to the very limit to get by. Some are natural mechanics while others cannot saw a board straight (the writer included). I once had a very heated discussion with a learned gentleman over the fact that my musical ability was inherited from my father. "Nonsense," was his reply. "You acquired the knowledge by observation, practice and application." Be that as it may, I still stand by my theory of inheritance. We have had many geniuses here and still have them.

The subject of this sketch was a natural mechanic, par excellence. He was born in Lorain County, Ohio, January 7, 1832, came to Eaton Rapids in the early '50's, was married in 1859 to Miss Jane M. Phelps. He returned to his old home town in 1862 and enlisted in the 128th Ohio Volunteers, the Company his buddies had joined, was honorably discharged in 1865 and returned here where he spent the remainder of his days, passing on May 9, 1919, at the age of 87 years.

The sign in front of his place of business read "Lacey T. Disbrow-Gun and Lock Smith" but this department was of minor importance in comparison to the many difficult feats he accomplished.

The following narrative is true, as the writer had heard it from different persons, and when he accosted Mr. Disbrow he replied, "Yes, I repaired a piece of machinery for a stranger the other day." This is given to bear out the caption "Born 40 years too soon." It brings out the difference in fees between hand and machine repair work.

Two gentlemen were visiting on a train when one, a manufacturer, remarked, "I have been looking for someone to fix a broken part to a machine. They are not manufactured any more; the patterns were destroyed in a fire, and it is on an intricate part of the machine." He took it from his grip, and passed it to his companion, who replied, "There is a man by the name of Disbrow in Eaton Rapids that can repair that—he can do anything." So the gentleman came to Eaton Rapids.

On inquiry he found the shop, which was on a side street on the second floor of a badly dilapidated building, and proceeded up the rickety old stairs until he came face to face with Disbrow, the "renowned mechanic." He was shabbily dressed, with a ten-day beard adorning his face, spectacles suspended on the top of his nose, and his right cheek well-rounded out with a fresh supply of Hiawatha chewing tobacco. The stranger inquired, "Are you Mr. Disbrow?" "I am," Disbrow replied with his familiar chuckle, and at the same time expectorating freely into a tobacco caddy filled with saw dust. Making his wants known he handed Mr. Disbrow the broken part and remarked, "It is a valuable part to a manufacturing machine. I understand

you can repair anything." "I wouldn't say that," replied Mr. Disbrow, and after carefully examining the broken part said, "I guess I can fix it." "When can I get it?" asked the customer. Peering up at the clock on the wall Disbrow responded, "About 4 o'clock." The gentleman was there at the appointed hour, examined the new part and compared it to the broken one. "An exact duplicate," he exclaimed. "What is the bill?" "Oh, about \$1.75," replied Disbrow. Whether he was compensated more fully for his work, no one ever knew. The minimum fee repairing a broken part as valuable as this would have been between \$50 and \$75 today. "Time Marches On" and upward.

His hobby, which occupied his spare moments, was making violins. He would wander through the woods, select perfect hardwood trees, cut out liberal slabs from the north side of them and by this careful procedure, his instrument always had beautiful tones. Once he made a violin that contained over one thousand pieces of wood. This was his joy and pride. He hardly ever sold an instrument, generally giving them to a friend or some member of the family.

Next of kin that are living are his son, William and his daughter, Mrs. Vera Trats in Bellevue; and four grandsons, Harry Hawkins of this city, Mearl Disbrow of Munising, Guy of Farwell, and James of Roseburg, Oregon.

In this day and age the spirit of arrogance seems to predominate in all walks of life. The Smiths want to outdo the Joneses—nothing like that ever fazed this old patriarch. Clad in his own rustic style he moved about day by day among the populace who little dreamed of the secret he had locked up in his heart, which was known only to a few outside his immediate family. It was not for sale, but could have brought millions if it had been possible to place it on the block.

He was an aristocrat—a descendant of Oliver Cromwell, and was entitled to use the Disbrow Coat of Arms, but the emblem he loved to display above all others was the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic, that adorned his left breast.

THE GODFREYS

Silas Godfrey Sr. moved here with his family in 1870 from

Dixon, Illinois, and opened a meat market on the present site of the Standard Oil Station on North Main Street.

The next year ground was broken for the Vaughan House, and the meat market and a store adjacent to it on the south were moved to the north side of East Knight Street. Mr. Godfrey died in 1873 and the widow, Dolly Godfrey, was left with her six children.

The market was closed and the two buildings were acquired by Charles E. Merritt and remodeled into a double house. It was purchased by Vern Gary and was his home for many years. It is now the Art Jowett apartments that face the river.

Mrs. Godfrey was an exceptional lady, kept her family together, and gave them a practical school education. They have always been among our first families.

Silas Jr. was clerk in L. A. Bentley's shoe store for many years, later became interested in real estate and insurance, and represented a Savings and Loan Association in Detroit. He was one of our biggest boosters and longed to see the day when a sanitarium would be located here, and the cures that were being brought about by the baths in our mineral waters would again be heralded to the nation.

Newton was a merchant, operating a stationery and book store and news-depot.

Frances and Lillian were school teachers and held fine positions. Velma was an excellent seamstress.

Next of kin that are living: Lillian (Mrs. Gamwell) and Velma.

DANIEL W. GOULD

Daniel W. Gould acquired several hundred acres of land in Hamlin township located between State Street and Grand River north and south and Forest Street and Smithville Road east and west, now the Miller's Dairy Farm No. 5. His town residence was the present home of Mrs. Isabel Stimson; besides his farming interests, he conducted a hardware store in the village.

THE HALE FAMILY

Calvin Hale was born in the Green Mountain state in 1812, where he grew to manhood and in 1836 turned his face west-

ward and acquired 120 acres of land in Section 11 in Tyler Township. That fall he sought employment and, as Kalamazoo was a thriving young village, hied himself in that direction. On account of his sterling qualities and gentle mannerisms he was taken into a home and by his aggressiveness was an employee as a farm hand for two years.

In 1839 he was married and brought his bride to the cabin he had previously built, to carve out their destiny in the dense forest.

Mr. Hale was a practical farmer, as his farm and buildings would substantiate. He never was an office seeker, and as he often said, "I am too busy with my farm duties to dabble in politics."

Their daughter, Clara, married N. T. Taylor, a substantial farmer in the township.

Next of kin living are: Mrs. Jennie Hale of Eaton Rapids; Frank P. Taylor's family, Mrs. Clara Squires of Eaton Rapids, Mrs. Lillian Zeinert, of Lake Worth, Florida, Nathaniel Taylor of Belle Glade, Florida; Edith J. Phillips family, Elmer of Clark's Lake, Glen of Lansing, Kenneth of Jackson, Lester of Watertown, Wisconsin, and Mrs. Ruth Rouse of Eaton Rapids.

David Hale, a brother of Calvin's, also native of Vermont, was born in 1820, migrated to New York State at an early age, and with difficulty obtained an education that permitted him to teach school and secure enough funds that he was able to journey here in 1844 and take up eighty acres of land in Section 11, Tyler Township. He returned to New York, married and in 1848 the couple returned and in 1852 settled on a 200-acre tract in Section 10, having disposed of his former possessions.

The Hale farm lies one mile south of the city, with fine surroundings, grounds well kept, buildings in repair and is one of the show places in this locality. He was one of the finest men to grace our community. He held many offices in the township: treasurer and supervisor for several terms, and was elected to represent Eaton County-First District, in the House of Representatives in 1875. His son, Will E. Hale was elected to the same office in 1909-1911, serving two terms.

Next of kin that are living: Will E. Hale's sons, Paul B. Hale

of Lakeland, Florida and Ralph Hale of Lansing.

Huldah Hale, sister of Calvin and David Hale, was born in Vermont in 1822 and was married to Gustavus Lake who passed away in 1866.

In 1867 Mrs. Lake and her family moved here to be near her brothers and she purchased a farm in Section 11, Tyler township. Mary, the oldest daughter, taught in the elementary grades of our public schools in the early 70's. She was married to William Fleming and moved to Detroit.

Oliver B. Lake, a son, married Elizabeth Barnes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barnes and they lived on the old homestead until his death. He was a politician and held many offices in the township.

Next of kin living: his daughter, Mrs. Cecil Trimble of Eaton Rapids.

Very few people know that in Oakwood cemetery lie the remains of a lady who was eligible to membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. (D.A.R.)

It was through the efforts of Mrs. Fern Fleming-Savage of Detroit and a granddaughter of Mrs. Mary Lake that her grave bears the insignia of the D.A.R., on two bronze plaques upon the face of which the following is written. One plaque, a shield with a flag receptacle stands at the head of the grave embossed: "Huldah Hale Lake, Granddaughter of a Revolutionary soldier, placed by Fort Pontchartrain Chapter D.A.R. 1946." The other adorns the grave: "Huldah Hale Lake, widow of Gustavus Lake, Daughter of Samuel Hale, Soldier of the War of 1812, Granddaughter of David Hale (Samuel Hale's father) Soldier of the Revolutionary War, Granddaughter of Calvin Chapin, Officer in the War of 1812 and Revolutionary War."

THE HAMILTON FAMILY

Horace M. Hamilton, a native of Massachusetts, was born in 1818, and came to Michigan in 1852, locating on a farm in Salem, Washtenaw County. He moved here in 1866, and operated a drug store which he sold to his two sons, Herbert H. and Frederick Z., in 1875. In 1867, he was appointed Post Master and served for eighteen years until he resigned in 1885. Grover

Cleveland was inaugurated President March 4 that year. Although Mr. Hamilton was a Republican, so well had he served the public that he was tendered the office for another four years but declined the honor. During his regime the Post Office was housed in the drug store, now the Tom Mingus Shoe Store.

Mr. Hamilton was of the progressive type and was one of the four business men that built the Leonard Block. He was a great lover of horse flesh and always had a fine span in his stable. The family affiliated with the Congregational Church.

In 1884, the drug store was sold to George D. Wilcox and Lewis W. Toles. The following year Herbert accepted a position as assistant cashier of the Michigan State Bank, and in 1890 became its cashier.

After disposing of his interests in the drug store, Fred operated a jewelry store for a few years, sold it to Elmer E. Trayer, and was later appointed State Accountant, residing in Lansing.

Next of kin that are living are: Herbert, his daughter, Bertha Cole of Charlotte; Fred, his son, Horace of Detroit.

THE HARTSON FAMILY

Charles T. Hartson, a native of Oneida, New York, came to Michigan in the early '50's. Like the majority of the young men of the period, the foremost thing on his mind was a trade which would afford him a livelihood in after years.

He procured employment at a plant in Jackson that manufactured bentwood trunks and harnesses, and he became proficient enough to operate a shop of his own. The war cut that ambition short, for in 1861 he enlisted in Company E 4th Michigan Infantry, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war.

He married Miss Ursula King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus King of this village, and opened a shop in Springport, a thriving little town. The mineral water boom was launched here, and on account of the growth our village was enjoying he returned here and began manufacturing articles of his chosen profession. The trunk business was slow, so that was abandoned, and in 1876, this advertisement appeared in the Eaton Rapids Journal: "Hartson and Cooper Harnesses;" in the same organ in 1878: "C. T. Hartson Furniture;" in 1880: "Hartson and Lake

Furniture;" in 1885: "C. T. Hartson Furniture and Undertaking," which he conducted until he sold to Vaughan Brothers (Julius and Don).

So rare were these bentwood trunks, that those managing Greenfield Village at Dearborn came here and procured the last specimen of his handicraft in that line from his daughter, Mrs. John D. Birney.

Politically he was a Jeffersonian Democrat, staunch and firm in his convictions; yet never did he let that stand in the way when it came to a proposition that afforded advantage for the betterment of our little city, of which he was one time mayor.

Next of kin that are living: Mrs. Addie Birney, of Eaton Rapids; Mrs. Jane Alt, her children, Victor, of Eaton Rapids, Mrs. Helen Jane Kilgour of Detroit, and Mrs. Maxine Magley, of San Diego, California.

THOMAS S. S. HAVENS

The Thomas S. S. Haven's Addition to the village was granted April 2, 1866. According to the best authority the writer is able to obtain, Mr. Havens acquired several hundred acres of land including a majority of the land between South Street and the Old Plank Road north and south, and between South Main Street and Water Street east and west. It also took in from Alice Street to the Spicerville Road north and south and South Main Street and West Street east and west, and the eighty acres now Rose Hill Cemetery.

He built the present residence of Glynn Shimmin and his spacious barns across South Street from the home. There was an enclosure about fifty by fifty feet extending from the east end of the barn to Jackson Street that was known as the "village pound." Here all animals taken in trespassing or running at large were placed, and they were redeemable only when the fee for such misdemeanor was paid to the pound-master.

THE HICKS FAMILY

William Hicks, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, where he reached his maturity, had read many accounts of the Northwest Territory, and he and his wife decided to cast their lot with other pioneers.

They packed their belongings in an ox cart and started over the mountains. It was a rough and rugged pass, but they finally reached Wheeling, West Virginia. More than once they were tempted to turn back, but by sheer grit and determination they proceeded and now they had only the foot hills to encounter.

At the inn where they stopped for the night, a manager of a stage coach route was trying desperately to procure the services of a driver and implored Mr. Hicks to accept the position. The compensation was attractive and after he and his wife took everything into consideration he decided to accept it. After a few trips he became accustomed to the work and on account of winter's being only a few weeks distance, he decided to remain until spring.

The first of April soon came and they again started on their journey. Upon reaching Fostoria, Ohio, he was confronted with a new proposition. There were numerous potteries and not enough laborers to fill the positions. Again they were undecided what course to take but after considerable thought, they concluded that, as he had no trade whatever, now was the time to acquire one and improve the opportunity before going into a strange country. This new work was very interesting; he became proficient in it and was soon made superintendent of one of the plants, a fact which induced him to remain for several years.

Finally the urge to come to Michigan got the better of them, and as their two boys, Liberty and Byron, had been apprentices to a mason contractor, they could aid him materially in building a pottery. By constant saving William had ample funds to purchase a team of horses and a wagon, and with the articles of furniture they possessed they started on the last lap of the journey they had so long anticipated. They landed in our little village in 1857. They began at once to search for a spot that contained the best grade of clay applicable to their needs.

(I want the reader to know the exact location of this kiln, hence this interruption. On M-99 as you pass the Petrieville road you climb the hill and come to the Frank Bostedor farm. The next place on the same side of the road is known as the Jake Miller home, now owned by Lillian Baker. Immediately

across the road on the high bank they built their log cabin, where the pottery was manufactured with the kiln in the rear at the bend of the river).

They manufactured jugs, crocks and all kinds of articles for farm use, but their specialty was sets of dishes for table use. Mr. Hicks and one of the boys were busily engaged in their manufacturing, while the other son peddled their wares through the country with a horse and cart.

This enterprise was carried on until the call to arms in the conflict with the South, when the boys enlisted. They had taken such an active part in the business that the father felt their absence keenly and being unable to employ competent help, decided to close the plant and it was never re-opened.

Thus another industry was consigned to the discards.

LIBERTY HICKS, A SON

An Artisan in Stone

How oft' have you heard this remark, "He's a jack of all trades and a master of none"? With our subject it was almost in reverse. He had several trades and was practically master of them all.

It would seem that Mr. Hicks was apt at almost anything to which he might apply his hand. When a small boy, he was helper to a baker in his shop and by observation and application was able to do a commendable job in that line. His brother had secured a position with a contractor who employed several masons, and he was induced to try his hand at that. He watched the mechanics zealously as they prepared the stones for their different usages, and finally took up that branch of the work. He became expert in the use of the stone hammer and was able to cut a boulder to almost any size or design he chose, his specialty being fireplaces and stone foundation walls. His affiliation with his father in the manufacturing of pottery prepared him in these diversified lines.

On October 11, 1861, he answered the call of his country and became a member of Company G, 13th Michigan Infantry, gave his occupation as a baker, and was assigned to the commissary department. A drummer boy was wounded in battle,

and as he had been a member of a fife and drum corps in Ohio, he stepped into the breach, seized the drum, and did his part at inspiring his comrades to carry "Old Glory" to victory. He was honorably discharged on August 20, 1865, returned home, married, built a house for his bride. He also built a bakery, his plans being to operate a wholesale business. Fire destroyed his plant, and as our village was growing rapidly he saw a future in masonry so took that up as his life's work.

When his two boys, William and Benjamin, became old enough to handle a trowel, he taught them the art he had attained and both have followed this vocation.

The one thing which Mr. Hicks pointed to with pride was his residence, which he built of field stone at the advanced age of seventy-five years. His residence is now the home of Carroll Young on Michigan Street.

The next of kin that are living: Amy Carrier, and her grand son, William Beasore of Sacramento, California; William, his children, Harry of Eaton Rapids, Joe and Mrs. Flo Nevills, both in Lansing; Eva Hoffman, her daughters, Mesdames Goldia Frazer and Gala Shimerhorn, both in Lansing; Attie Royston, her daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Xanders in Lansing; J. Benjamin, his foster son, Harland, in Lansing; Hazel Moore, her son, Leo Moore in Bryte, California; Ida Shepard, her children, Mrs. Pauline Mowlin, in Jackson, and Ben Sipe, Concord.

Next of kin of his brother Byron's family now living is Horace Hicks of Jackson.

THE HUGHES FAMILY

No history of our city would be complete without mentioning the Quincy A. Hughes family that moved here from Middleville in 1892. Mr. Hughes operated the grist mill for many years until the loss of his eyesight.

The family at once became affiliated with the civic and social activities of the community and were a valuable asset.

The boys were athletically inclined, especially Charley, who organized the "Lincoln" baseball club (which has been written up under that caption). When but a lad of twelve years, he was chosen its captain and one could see by the manner in which he instilled the finer points of the game into his team-mates that

he was a born leader of men.

Graduated from the public school in 1898, he attended the University of Michigan until 1901, when he accepted a position with the Detroit Tribune. It was at that time that he became associated with Malcolm Bingay, then a member of the Detroit News staff, and as cub reporters they were naturally thrown together on many occasions.

In 1904, he became baseball editor of the Chicago Record-Herald. One of his assignments was traveling with the White Sox and Cub baseball teams.

In 1909, W. D. Boyce, publisher of the Chicago Saturday Blade, made a trip to Africa. He prevailed upon Mr. Hughes to accompany him and the account of this expedition from his pen was read nation-wide and has become a historical classic.

Returning to Detroit in 1910, he organized the Detroit Athletic Club and is its first and only secretary. While it is governed by a Board of Directors, Mr. Hughes' experience in its development has practically made him a dominant figure on the Board. It is acknowledged to be one of the finest men's clubs in the United States and the Club Magazine (D. A. C. News) published by Mr. Hughes is regarded as the leading publication in its field.

He saw the need of an amphitheater in Detroit, and in 1926 was the promoter of the Olympia, serving as its president until 1933. This one factor has brought many of the leading attractions to that city. He was chosen President of the Adcraft Club of Detroit in 1913 and of the University of Michigan Club of Detroit in 1916.

Mr. Hughes was never too busy to adhere to the old adage "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and so became a member of the Country Club of Detroit, Bloomfield Hills Country Club, the Indian Creek Country Club of Miami Beach, Florida, and the Dutch Treat Club of New York City.

The officers of the D. A. C. in acknowledgement of his faithful service to the club since its opening (thirty-five years ago) honored him with a banquet on May 22, 1950. He was given the pleasure of furnishing a list of his particular friends he wished

to be invited to attend the function. (John D. Birney and the writer were included.) For his loyalty to the club he was presented with a \$10,000 United States Savings Bond.

One outstanding feature of Charley Hughes is that he never forgot his old friends.

A number of years ago he was called upon to furnish entertainment for a civic banquet in our city. He graciously responded by bringing Eddie Guest and Harold Jarvis with him from Detroit.

To commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Eaton Rapids High School Alumni Association, of which he is a member, he was again appealed to, and Malcom Bingay was our honored guest.

Such loyalty cannot be overlooked. Both he and Mrs. Hughes (nee Anna Corbin, a local girl) are affable people.

The parents and their only daughter, May, who married Judge Clyde I. Webster, have been called home.

The next of kin living, besides Charles, is Glen of Utica, N. Y. A strange but unique agreement:

When the Detroit Athletic Club was completed Mr. Hughes asked the Board of Directors to remain as their secretary without remuneration but solicited the privilege of getting out, on his own responsibility and risk, a monthly magazine to be known as the D. A. C. News.

The Board hesitated at first but finally assented. As to Mr. Hughes' success in publishing this magazine Malcom Bingay says, "Advertisers are standing in line to await their turn to beg for space and both Mr. Dunn and Mr. Bradstreet tip their hats to him stepping out of his limousine."

KLEEBER ERASTUS HUNTINGTON

Kleeber Erastus Huntington, better known as "Tibbie," was one of the familiar characters about town at the beginning of the century. He completed the fifth grade in the city schools. His hobby was figuring. He lived with his parents and earned his spending money doing errands for different people.

Perhaps his greatest pastime or pleasure besides figuring was visiting "Rosehill." He knew where practically every one was

laid to rest, whether their resting place was designated by a monument or not. He could give the date of birth and death of scores of his friends, a feat not equalled by those of an exceptional memory.

He was employed at the Miller Dairy Farms, filling a silo, and attempting to descend therefrom, he slipped and fell to the ground, breaking both ankles, and sustained other injuries that eventually caused his death.

He was liked by everyone. It is doubted that he ever had an enemy, a virtue that only a very few people can make a claim to.

THE HYDE FAMILY

Rufus Hyde, a native of New Hampshire, came here in 1840 and acquired several parcels of land in Eaton Rapids township from the government. He was of the aggressive type and when the "Old Plank Road" was built he had the contract to furnish the plank for its construction between this village and Berryville (Jackson County), but the contract proved unprofitable, which fact together with the failure of the pioneer banking institution forced him into bankruptcy. He engaged in the boot and shoe business here, continuing in this enterprise until 1865, when he was compelled to retire because of ill health.

The Hydys were substantial folks, and this trait predominates down through the whole line including the present generation. The birthplace of the Congregational Church was their home. (Rufus Hyde and his wife Elmira, and fourteen others, resolved that they form themselves into a church to be called the First Congregational Church of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, dated July 13, 1843.) The Hyde property was that now owned by the Stewart Chevrolet Sales, the old home occupying the south portion of that lot.

They were the parents of a large family, but James R. was the only one who attained years of maturity. He was educated here, and in 1861 graduated from one of the leading medical colleges in Cleveland, Ohio; he returned and established a fine practice which he held until his death in January, 1893.

The son, Rufus J. Hyde, followed in his father's footsteps, received his elementary schooling here and graduated from the University of Michigan in the class of 1884, with the degree of

Doctor of Medicine. He joined his father in practice until the latter's passing, continuing on his own for many years.

The next of kin that are living: Mrs. Sophronia Hyde-West, her son, Rolo of Ann Arbor; Mrs. Effie Hyde-Coller, her daughter, Mrs. Blanche Sharp of Eaton Rapids.

GEORGE KENWAY

The English Dude

It was in the early '90's when Henry Barnes was returning from a trip to England where he had been visiting his kin-folk that he met a young man by the name of George Kenway from Liverpool who was a passenger on the boat. He was an entertaining chap, a good conversationalist and a fine musician. It is presumed that Mr. Barnes told him where he was from and invited him, should he be near his home in Michigan, to give him a call.

Not long after this, Kenway showed up in our little city, heavily laden with baggage. He had clothes for every occasion—top hat, silk gloves, spats, gold-headed cane, monocle, and everything.

It was but a brief period of time before it became known that he was an entertainer, a past master at the piano, and that he had an excellent tenor voice, with which he sang English and Scotch folk songs, as well as the classics, in a charming manner, and when it came to yodeling, he could make the native Swiss cover their faces with envy.

His prowess as an entertainer increased and his services were much in demand, especially in ladies' clubs. Young ladies felt complimented when asked to accompany him for a drive.

On several different occasions ladies began to miss money from their purses, but no one suspected Kenway as he was too much of a gentleman. As his appearances at different functions increased, the thefts became more prevalent. A young lady was enjoying his hospitality for a drive one sunny afternoon and as they passed through the village, she asked him to allow her to mail some letters at the post office. He very graciously assisted her to alight from the carriage and on her return said, "Miss Josie, your pocket-book is open." Nothing more was thought of it,

for he accompanied her home, and was asked to remain for supper and to spend the evening. The next day the young lady missed a ten dollar bill from her purse.

More thefts occurred and the web of guilt began to close in on our distinguished visitor, but no criminal proceedings were instituted.

He hid himself away in the stillness of the night, and the next we heard of him he was languishing in the Mason jail. Evidently he had gone to our neighboring village, indulged in his usual practices, and the law had caught up with him. Nothing more was ever heard of him after his release from the bastille.

Of course "Young America" had to "horn in" here and we kids composed the following parody to commemorate his visit among us.

Tune: "My Poor Nellie Grey"
Oh, my dear Ken-e-way,
They have taken him away,
And we'll never see our darling any more.
They have taken him to Mason,
Where he'll wear his life away,
As he toils in the Ingham County jail.

THE KNAPP FAMILY

William Wallace Knapp was born in Clyde County, New York, in 1821 and migrated to Tecumseh, Michigan, in 1840. Two years later he married Laurinda Brooks; they were the parents of three sons, John, Edgar and Joel.

In 1850 he purchased eighty acres of land in Aurelius township, later known as the E. O. Flaherty-farm, now the home of Reuben Carpenter.

He answered the call of his country and was a member of Sherman's Army on the "March to the Sea," but he was stricken with a fever and died in Atlanta, Georgia.

The widow disposed of the farm and moved to this village where Joel opened a grocery and drug store, and Edgar operated a hardware store. He became affiliated with Walter Mest who later sold to Joseph Carr, a native of Erie, Michigan. Mr. Carr

withdrew from the firm and conducted a boot and shoe store for many years.

In 1885 John and Joel and their families joined a colony of Eaton Rapids people who migrated to Kansas. Joel returned in 1897 and conducted a grocery store until his retirement in 1920. He continued to be affiliated in the business with his sons Wallace and Willard; the latter withdrew from the firm in 1926. In 1937 Wallace formed a partnership with Maurice Twichell and in 1945 retired and was succeeded by his son-in-law Paul Cochran.

Wallace was an athlete and starred on both the high school baseball and football teams. While attending the Michigan Agricultural College (M.S.C.), he was a pitcher on the college nine and later held the same position on the local Knights of Pythias team that gained some reputation in the state.

Next of kin of Joel Knapp living: Wallace and his daughter, Elizabeth Cochran of this city; Willard and his children, Mrs. Carolyn Knapp, Miss Lorain Knapp and John, all of Lansing; Lena Runyan and her daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Price and Mrs. Esther Reinicke, all of Galveston, Texas; Florence Pett, her son, Dr. Robert Pett, in Detroit; Alice Pett, her son, David, a Major in the Air Corps stationed at Roswell, New Mexico.

Next of kin of the Joseph Carr family living: Mrs. Maude Carr-Stimson and daughter, Mrs. Clara Coffey, in New York City.

Aaron Mest, a miller by occupation and a native of New York, settled here in 1844.

Four of his family are well known personages here. Walter, merchant and traveling salesman; Harry, a traveling salesman; Sarah, married James Leisenring; Effie married E. H. Mendell. Next of kin of the Mest family living: Effie of this city and her son, Neil of Holt; Harry's daughter, Miss Genevieve Mest of Lansing.

Next of kin of the Flaherty family living: Dan of Beaumont, California, Ed of Chicago.

THE KOSITCHEK FAMILY

For many years one of the familiar signs over one of the stores bore the name of Kositchek. Business seemed to center around the oldest son Henry, who with his sister Bertha and

her husband Jacob (a cousin) migrated to this country from what is now the German section of Czechoslovakia and settled here in 1868.

His parents, Solomon Kositchek and wife, and younger brother Max came to this country two years later and joined the family. The father was killed by a run-away team.

The writer's grandmother related instances of buying goods of Henry when, as a young journeyman, he carried a pack on his back while he trudged through the country displaying his merchandise to the rural housewives.

In the early '70's the family opened a dry goods store in the wooden building (now used as a store room at Webster's Lumber and Coal Yard) on the present location of DeRose's Ice Cream Parlor, and in 1882, when Tuomey Bros. (in a similar business) moved to Jackson, they purchased the building which is now the north store of Bromeling and Pettit and moved the stock there. Later they opened up a clothing business in the South store, all being operated under the name of H. Kositchek and Brothers. They moved to Lansing in 1905. One outstanding feature of the family was that they were dependable and stood behind their merchandise. They were substantial business people as the homes they built on South River Street indicate. Jacob constructed the present home of Ralph Simpson; Max, that of Mrs. Ella Beasore; and Henry, Mrs. Anna Milbourn's residence.

The children were all born here. Next of kin that are living: Henry's children, Edith K. Koehler, Newark, N. J., Dr. Sol, Chicago, Lewis of Lansing; Max's children, Leo and Emil of Chicago; Jacob's daughter, Mrs. Lulu K. Frank of Detroit.

THE LAFEVER FAMILY

George LaFever came to Michigan when but a lad. He was always very much interested in carpenter tools and decided to make building his future vocation; he went to New York City to study architecture with his uncle, Minard LaFever, a master mechanic, and later returned here a millwright.

The village was growing rapidly which furnished him plenty of contracts. In the meantime he married Miss Margaret Howard and took his bride to their beautiful home on South Main Street.

Floyd, their son, launched out in the furniture business in the early 80's in the store occupied by Laura's Style Shop. In the '90's he equipped a building for the manufacture of furniture and was producing a fine grade of merchandise, but a fire destroyed the plant and it was never restored. The factory was operated at the present location of Maupin's Woolen Mills. During this time he added undertaking and flowers to his business.

Mrs. LaFever, the mother, was instrumental in their observing the first Decoration Day here, and she also started the Pioneer Club.

The next of kin living are: George LaFever's daughter, Mrs. Edith Minnie in Dania, Fla.; Floyd LaFever's grandson, Charles LaFever who is associated with his aunt, Mrs. Minnie in Florida.

JOEL LATSON

Joel Latson, an early pioneer, took up land in Section 1 Tyler township in 1841. He disposed of that tract and in 1850 purchased 116 acres in Section 34 Eaton Rapids township. The property was sold to John G. Miller, father of Dennis G. Miller, in 1874, and is now the home of Miller's Dairy Farms.

His remains were buried in the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery and the epitaph on the monument marking his resting place portrays his eccentricities.

JOEL LATSON

DIED SEPT. 24, 1873

AGE 54 YEARS

Early in 1835 then a lad of sixteen, He left his home in Genesee Co., N.Y. to seek his fortune in the wilds of Mich. Possessing an iron constitution and an indomitable will he was destined to rank with the peerless yeoman of his day. He located in E. R. 1837, united with the M. E. Church 1847, he served as Class leader 16yrs. incorporating into these services his numerous traits startling his brethren often with burning zeal, evincing his nearness to the Master. He longed for the Boatman. He feared no evil as the rod and staff were timely given. He leaves a wife and 6 children to mourn his loss.

J. DeCoursey

The stone carving is an excellent piece of work and was done by Jesse DeCoursey, a master craftsman.

THE LEONARD FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Leonard, pioneers from Batavia, New York, and their six children migrated to our little village in 1844, Mr. Leonard opening a general store shortly after their arrival.

For a couple of years Philip worked a few hours each night at the old Gallery Foundry for fifty cents a week. At the age of seventeen years he entered the store with his father and in 1859, when he was nineteen, his father died and Philip assumed the management of the store, supporting the entire family for a few years, when he bought the family interest.

He had established a fine business and was enjoying a wave of prosperity, to the extent that in 1870 he, Dr. A. C. Dutton, I. N. Reynolds and H. M. Hamilton, built the four stores—three-story brick block on the east side of South Main Street, that bears his name—"Leonard Block."

Mr. Leonard moved his stock of goods into the north store, now owned by the Milbourn Drug Store, the second floor being utilized as a residence. The south store, now the property of Tom Mingus, was occupied by Mr. Hamilton's drug store. Mr. Hamilton sold his store to his two sons, Herbert H. and Fred Z., the firm name being Hamilton Brothers.

One June 18, 1866, the Dutton and Leonard addition was surveyed, laid out into lots, blocks, and streets, the boundary lines being from Leonard Street to McArthur River Drive (north and south), and from South River Street to Gould Street (east and west). They improved the addition by building several houses for both rent and sale. The two streets passing through the addition bear the names of Dutton and Leonard.

Mr. Dutton sold his interest in the addition to his partner and directed his attention to other real estate holdings, loans and insurance, while Mr. Leonard continued improving the addition and the operating of his store.

In 1877 the Leonards adopted a young lad from Hastings by the name of Wright, and he is known by his many friends as Harvey Wright Leonard. He graduated from the local high school

in 1892 and Olivet College in 1896, and at one time he owned and edited a paper at Anderson, Indiana. Later he was the factory manager of the Lexington Motors at Connersville, Indiana, and now holds the position of assistant supervisor of the "Tool and Expense Material Department" in the Olds Motor Works in Lansing.

Mr. Leonard's business interests increased rapidly in volume, and in the early '80's he sold his store to Reynolds Brothers; about the same time he purchased the Morgan Vaughan residence on the corner of Hall and West Plain Streets (Mrs. Goff's home), where the family lived at the time of his death, which occurred in 1896.

He was supposed to have been the wealthiest person in the city—well over \$100,000; the writer had the privilege of looking at the records of the estate in the Judge of Probate's office at Charlotte. The administrator, appraisers and all of those mentioned in connection with settling the estate were well known to him and were high calibre business men. There were several pages of listed assets besides scores of notes, contracts, etc. Two years were consumed in closing the estate. The three principal items were the Leonard Block, and holdings in Ann Arbor and Chicago.

He was a mighty liberal man, kind to the poor and very civic-minded; he was a devoted member of both the Blue Lodge and Chapter (Masonic Lodges) and was the treasurer of each for many years.

Two of his sisters, Frances and Celestea, were well-known personages, the former an excellent seamstress and the latter a successful school teacher; both were very active in their professions for many years.

In 1873 the writer's family moved here from Illinois and father secured living quarters across the hall from the Leonard's, over the north store now occupied by Bromeling & Pettit. I was a "kid of the street"—no one to play with, no place to play, so my associates were the proprietors and clerks in the stores. The two Reynolds boys, Will and Herb, who worked for Mr. Leonard were good pals. They kept everlastingly at me trying

to make me call everyone by his first name, a trait that I believe has followed me all my life. I helped them pull up the awnings (I called them sheds) and I think the last time I saw Will he remarked, "Scott, don't you think it is about time to wheel up the sheds?" and how he laughed!

The Leonard's had no children and my coming into their lives was almost like a bundle from heaven; I lived there more than I did at home. "Aunt Sate" made me a beautiful suit of black silk velvet—frock coat, trousers, white blouse, shoes, stockings and a pert little hat—and was I a proud kid! I suppose I "strutted my stuff." I accompanied her occasionally to the Episcopal Church (now the Catholic), circuses, socials, McAuliffe's Island and other places of entertainment.

In 1875 we moved over on West Street and my heart was crushed over the fact of leaving my dear friends, and I am happy to say this friendship lasted all through their lives.

The next of kin living: Harvey Wright Leonard, a foster son, of St. Johns.

ELMHURST

Beautiful Elmhurst—the reader will ask at once where it is located. It borders on about 200 feet of one of our popular thoroughfares, extends through the block and is enclosed with an ornamental iron fence. The entrance to this plot is guarded by a stately elm from which the estate derives its name. On the east of the plot the palatial residence arises and to the west lies the spacious green velvet lawn whose borders are skirted by scores of hydrangeas. Its flower gardens are a profusion of loveliness. (It is now the home of Mrs. Frank T. Miller.)

The house was built in 1887 by the late George H. Lincoln and many of the materials used in its construction were obtained from different parts of the country. Elmhurst, the Lincoln's summer home, was elaborately furnished and its interesting art treasures were collected from all parts of the globe, during the travels of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln.

Mr. Lincoln was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1844 and in tracing his genealogy it appears that his and the Great Emancipator's great-great-grandfathers, Daniel and Mordecai,

were brother and son of Samuel Lincoln. His early education was received at the place of his birth. He improved every opportunity made available to him and was alert to progressive business ethics, which he used to great advantage in later years.

He answered the call of his country, serving in the Civil War as private and lieutenant from 1862-1864, and was honorably discharged from Ship's Island, Department of the Gulf, after which he began his business career in New York City.

He was a man of great force of character and foresight, a large investor in mines in Colorado, many of which became famous. He was an Empire builder, for in the early days of the western railroad enterprises he became affiliated with several different lines of one of which he was head and director.

He could see a great future in oil and had valuable connections with the Standard Oil Company. He maintained his own brokerage firm, George H. Lincoln and Company at 23 Beaver Street in New York City.

He had the distinction of being president of the New York Petroleum Exchange in 1883 and was a very popular member of many of the leading clubs in that city.

Being a man of integrity, he was interested in clean government administration.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holcomb, the latter better known as Frances or Franc, resided here; she and Mrs. Lincoln were sisters. On one of the Lincoln's visits here he became so impressed with our little city that he concluded to make it his summer home and thus Elmhurst became a reality.

It was not unusual for the Lincolns to spend their Christmas holidays here. They were very democratic, joined in the festivities, attended the parties held at the Anderson House and enjoyed the exchange of dances with the younger set as well as with the older group who were their associates.

Upon the death of their husbands, Mrs. Holcomb and her daughter, Mrs. Mattie Becker, made Elmhurst their home and the latch string always hung out.

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln became affiliated with the First Congregational Church of this city and after his death which occurred December 6, 1894, Mrs. Lincoln presented the church with a white

marble baptismal urn. Around the bowl is neatly carved "In Memoriam—George H. Lincoln. December 6, 1894."

Mrs. Lincoln died on November 22, 1929. Mr. Lincoln left an estate of \$500,000 and his wife nearly \$1,000,000.

The next of kin living in Mrs. Frank T. Miller's family are her two sons, Frank Jr. in this city and Paul of Grand Ledge.

MORSE CREEK-HOBART DRAIN

The reader may wonder why this small stream had two names, so I shall clear up that point and incidentally include a meager history of two pioneer families.

Among his purchases, Samuel Hamlin acquired several acres of land in Section 9, Hamlin township, from the Government in 1836. The parcel of land and the home I am referring to are immediately south of the Hamlin Cemetery.

Mr. Hamlin probably sold this to Rufus King and he to Hiram Mendell, who moved his family here from Litchfield during the Civil War. At the latter's death, Mrs. Anna Hobart, a daughter, paid off the heirs and became sole owner of the property. It was at this time that the stream known as Morse Creek was straightened and deepened at different points and it appears in the records of the County Drain office in Charlotte as the Hobart drain.

The next of kin are Neil Mendell, Ethel Hosler and daughter Marion Miller of this city, Edwin Stoddard of Onaway, and Walter Mendell (son of William Mendell, deceased) of Lansing.

Henry Mendell, a brother of Hiram, moved his family here from Litchfield about the same time, and built a home on the corner of West Plain and Hall Streets. He was a harness maker and established a business here. His hobby was flowers and he maintained a small green house at his residence. His children, Cora, Lucy, and Fred Mendell, moved West several years ago and their whereabouts are unknown.

THE MILLER FAMILY

The Wheeler Miller family, consisting of the wife and children, William, Morris, Charles, and Nancy migrated from New York State in the 1840's. It appears that the father must have purchased the tract of land taken up by Robert Montgomery

from the government in 1835.

William and Charles married neighborhood sweethearts. William's wife was Alvira Montgomery, daughter of Col. John Montgomery, and Charles married Celestia Montgomery, daughter of Johnson Montgomery who settled in section 36, Eaton Rapids township in 1835. Charles and Alvira died and William married his brother Charles's widow, Celestia—Addie Miller-Elliott was her daughter.

On the death of the father, William purchased the old homestead, was a progressive and prosperous farmer, held many offices in the township, and in 1890 was elected to serve the 11th District in the State Senate.

He sold the farm in the 1890's to Henry Pierce of Iowa, moved to this city, purchased the property now the residence of George L. Pettit Sr. and became interested in the Whipple Harrow Co.

He took keen interest in the city affairs and represented his precinct in various offices in the city government.

Next of kin that are living: William Miller's descendants:

Zeno: his children, Elliott of Cleveland, Ohio, Alvira and Gladys of Virginia; Alice Hackett: her son, Scott Hackett of Bellhaven, N. C.; Henry: his daughter, Gertrude, Richmond, Va; Albert's children: Lela Shafer, of North Hollywood and Kittie Whipple of Susanville, both in California, Allie Holkins of North Adams, William's son James of St. Clair Shores, Lewis and Charles of Cleveland, Ohio.

Albert married Miss Jennie Carpenter, one of the city belles in the 1880's. She was the daughter of Lewis Carpenter, a contractor and builder who built the Daniel Gould home, the first brick house built in the city (The Stimson house) on South Main Street.

Mr. Carpenter was a veteran of the Civil War. He spent his later days at the Soldier's Home at Hampton Roads, Virginia and at his demise was buried at that place.

H. C. MINNIE

Henry C. Minnie (better known as Charlie) was a native of Erie, Michigan, who came here in the early '80's. After dis-

posing of some interests, he joined the Jackson Cracker Company as one of its salesmen, during which time he became interested in the firm, and when the National Biscuit Company bought the Jackson Cracker Company, those owning stock in the Corporation surrendered their holdings at a handsome profit.

In 1893 he purchased a half interest in the George Pettit Hardware Store, the firm being Pettit and Minnie. His partner died the following spring and when M. P. Bromeling joined the firm it was known as Pettit, Minnie and Company, and later the entire stock was owned by Minnie and Bromeling.

About 1912 he bought his partner's interest and since that time the following were affiliated with him: Seth A. Tubbs, John H. Ramsay, and in 1936, his nephew Charles LaFever. The store was sold to Theodore Lyon in 1939.

The only living kin of Mr. Ramsay is Miss Hazel Ramsay of Jackson.

Mr. Minnie was one of the best-known hardware men in the state, being connected with this line of business continually for a period of forty-six years. He, together with Frank Brockett of Battle Creek and Henry Weber of Detroit, were the organizers of the Michigan Hardware Association, Mr. Brockett being the first president and Mr. Minnie the secretary.

Politically he was a Republican, one of the shrewdest and at one time one of the most influential politicians in the state. His adversaries watched him like a hawk but were never wiser as to his movements or policies. Very often he and his lieutenants worked secretly after nightfall laying their plans, and were back at their respective businesses the following morning as though nothing had happened. When things became hot the writer was occasionally assigned to carry out some secret mission of which the opposition never became suspicious.

It was through Mr. Minnie's efforts and almost single-handed that he procured the nomination of Dr. J. B. Bradley for Auditor General at the State Republican convention held in Detroit in 1904.

He was Washington Gardner's chief lieutenant from 1899 to 1910, when Mr. Gardner represented the Michigan 3rd Con-

gressional District in Washington, D.C. All the Postmasters in the district were recommended by Mr. Minnie with the exception of the one at Albion, Mr. Gardner's home city, and at Kalamazoo, the home of Senator Julius Caesar Burroughs. Mr. Minnie was postmaster for sixteen years and the writer was his assistant, which brought us into very close proximity during his term of office.

The Minnies had no children and he was constantly helping young people to attend college. As to the number he assisted no one but him and the individual can ever know, and he declared that he was never a loser in any way.

The writer met Mr. Minnie when but a lad, and a friendship started at that time that existed all through life.

I was surprised when Mr. Minnie told me of the following incident many years after it happened.

Mr. Minnie was appointed Postmaster in 1898 upon the recommendation of Senator Julius C. Burroughs, the Michigan 3rd Congressional District being represented in Congress by a Democrat—I think, "Peppermint" Todd of Kalamazoo. Shortly after he had taken over the postoffice, the Senator's secretary, Henry Rose, called on Mr. Minnie and told him he would have to get rid of Munn. "Why," asked Minnie? "On account of his political affiliations," replied Rose. (I had cast my first vote for Grover Cleveland for President). To which Mr. Minnie responded, "I have known this young man for years—if he goes, I go." We both held our jobs.

He was a short, slight-built man in stature, kind-hearted, demure and soft-spoken. He loved his adopted city and was very civic-minded. He made friends and retained them, but once he lost confidence in a person, that was the end.

After disposing of his store, he came into my office often for a visit. Almost the last time he called, there seemed to be something on his mind, for he was unusually quiet. As he arose to go I went to the door with him. He extended his hand and said, "Scott, there were once three very good friends, but one of them has gone." "The other two should be very near and dear to each other," I replied. "Don't you know who those fel-

lows were?" he asked. To this I replied that I did not. "Well, it was Pat (James H.) Gallery, yourself and myself," and with a tightening of his grip and a tear in his eye he said "Goodbye," and was gone. I closed the door, sat down at my desk with my head in my hands, and sobbed like a child. Sixty years a friend! My loyalty had never wavered and the episode of the last few minutes had vindicated my faith in a friend.

Mrs. Minnie (Edith LaFever) is a mighty clever woman in her right. She inherited the home built by her father in the early days; it was of unique design, with French doors adorning the front.

She was an artist in both oil and water colors. All through the house you could see and feel the touch of her artistry—brac-a-brac here and there, draperies hung from the ceiling, and screens set at advantageous points upon which picturesque designs in oil were spread. From the walls hung paintings of foreign design,—flowers in profusion and local scenes of interest. As one sat in the spacious living room when the lights were low, the shadows that were produced by the burning logs in the fireplace made the scene one of loveliness. The Minnies were fine, gracious people, who had hosts of friends and loved to entertain.

There was but one thing that could have made their happiness more complete, and that was a gift from heaven—a child of their own; that pleasure was denied them.

THE MORSE CHAIR FACTORY

One might think by the heading of this article that in this city was once located a large chair industry, but such is not the case, the caption being used only to designate the operations of a certain individual.

Morse Creek, sometimes referred to as the Hobart drain, is the outlet of low lands, located in Section 26, Hamlin Township, and derives its name from an early settler. Its course is north-west. It passes between Rosehill and Oakwood cemeteries and empties into Spring Brook not far from the Michigan Central Railroad Bridge. There is no way of ascertaining at what time Mr. Morse located here, although it is safe to say it was in the early forties.

In those primitive days, a pioneer generally turned his mind to the one thing he was most capable of doing. It is authentically known that he was a woodcraftsman, that he erected a building and also built a dam for the purpose of creating water power to turn the wheels of his tiny factory. This plant was located about 500 feet east of the Spicerville Road at the foot of the hill on the John Hyatt property (formerly known as the Charles E. Merritt farm). Mr. Morse manufactured various kinds of chairs for which it is said he had quite a market. What makes this narrative authentic was the existence of a child's high chair which was in the Hamlin family for five generations. As it was sturdily built it would undoubtedly be in service today, only it was lost in the fire of the late D. Heber Hamlin's home that was located on the Spicerville Road.

THE MUNN FAMILY

Aaron Baldwin Munn was born in Newark, New Jersey, January 1, 1806, and Nancy McFarren—Munn his wife, in Penn Yan, New York, January 2, 1807, there being one year and one day difference in their ages. Mr. Munn received his early education at the place of his birth, served his apprenticeship as a carpenter there and was acknowledged as a millwright. Mrs. Munn was a seamstress, and assisted her brother Robert McFarren, who was a merchant tailor. Mr. Munn contracted to build a grist mill at Penn Yan, where he met his future bride. Shortly afterward they were married and in 1838 came to Michigan and settled on their 120-acre farm in section 8, Tyler (now Hamlin) township, one mile south of Spicerville. As far as is known, there never was a log cabin on the farm and from the best authority theirs was the first frame house built in the township, the family living in Spicerville until the new home was sufficiently inclosed.

Among her belongings Mrs. Munn brought with her several cherry seedlings (black and red oxheart) tied in a red bandana handkerchief; these were set out and grew prolifically. It is safe to say that the majority of the fruit trees of this species in this vicinity were the sprouts from these trees.

For nearly thirty years, Mr. Munn made a majority of the

coffins used in these parts, which occupation he carried on besides clearing his farm.

Four children were born: Mary Jane, who died shortly after her marriage to George Barr, leaving an infant daughter Agnes, now deceased; William T., a veteran of the Civil War, who married Lucy Bennett and in the '80's moved to Elmira, Michigan; (next of kin now living is a granddaughter Isabell Munn, residing in Gaylord); Andrew N., married Lutheria Freeman, and after her death married her sister, Rose H. Freeman. He remained on the farm and became its owner after a settlement with the heirs. Next of kin living is Dr. A. R. Munn of Detroit, who retains the old homestead. Asa B. married Mary E. Dernier, and the next of kin is a son (the writer) and a daughter Lena. Asa attended Olivet College and later graduated from the University of Michigan in medicine, started practice in Springport, but later moved to Rochelle, Illinois, continuing his practice. He was a prodigy in both music and literature. The only instruction he ever received in the former was when he attended singing schools with his mother at the Spicerville school house, taught by D. B. Fancher, a local school master, and Daniel Goss, a graduate of the Boston School of Music.

Professor Goss was badly deformed and to some this infirmity was displeasing; yet with all this handicap he was held in the highest esteem as a master musician. He would organize singing schools in six allied school districts, teaching one night a week in each. His trusted violin, upon which he was a very proficient artist, was used extensively in his teaching. It was carefully placed in its case and held tightly under one arm, his other arm supporting all his earthly belongings in a carpet bag as he trudged along the highway with difficulty from one assignment to another.

Mr. Munn's literary aptness was acquired at Olivet College. While in Rochelle, where the writer was born, he began giving music lessons, and in a short time accepted this as his vocation which he continued until his death. On his return to Eaton Rapids he had scores of scholars taking lessons on the organ, piano, violin, clarinet and in voice. Each winter he conducted singing school in several rural school houses in this immediate vicinity. Vocally he was a lyric tenor. In stature he stood six

feet six inches and weighed about two hundred pounds.

In 1883 he joined the C. E. Leslie Music House in Chicago and conducted monthly singing schools in several different cities in Illinois and Wisconsin.

He composed the lyrics and scores of a new music book which started with the fundamentals of music and carried through the heavy anthems. He was offered very attractive amounts for the exclusive right to publish many of his anthems, but declined as he wished them for his own book. He passed on in his fortieth year and the book was never published.

Hundreds of people in this vicinity obtained all of their musical knowledge from him and he pointed with pride to Mrs. May Lewis-Perrine, who was organist at the Central Methodist Church in Detroit until her tragic death, and Mrs. Lizzie Wilkins-Brown, who manipulated the huge console on the beautiful auditorium pipe organ in St. Louis, Missouri.

His talents were divided between his children. Lena, a graduate of our public schools and the State Normal College at Ypsilanti, taught school for many years and later established her own department (The Book Nook) at Arbaugh's in Lansing, which she conducted successfully up to the time she was stricken with the dreaded affliction, a cerebral hemorrhage, on February 14, 1943. Since that time she has been at the Masonic Home in Alma, Michigan. She was an excellent student and, like her father, never forgot anything she heard or read. She travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, visiting all points of interest. In 1922 she toured Europe, and was lucky in being selected the one of her party (Cook Travel Bureau) to have an audience with the Pope in Rome. She attended the Passion Play given by the people of that little Bavarian Village, Oberammergau. Upon her return home she gave lectures on several different subjects, especially the Passion Play, which was always interspersed with some of her original poems for which she had gained recognition. During her brief stay at Oberammergau, she was a guest at the home of Anton Lang, who portrayed "the Christus," and by this contact she learned about many of the habits, customs and beliefs of the people of that country. This gave her a marvelous background for her lecture,

which was conceded by many to be the best interpretation of the Play they had ever heard.

Scott remained in Eaton Rapids and when a young man entered the employment of "Uncle Sam" in the post office and was retired July 31, 1941, having fifty years, nine months, and four days to his credit. He is musically inclined and it has always been his hobby. He joined the local band in 1879 (at the age of eight years) and this year closes his seventy-second year as a bandsman.

Since 1889 the life of the local organization has practically rested on his shoulders. In 1913 he organized his own Concert Band which bears his name and has filled scores of engagements throughout the state. At his advanced age he conducts his band at weekly concerts each summer at Island Park.

He had several positions offered him during his business career, one of the more important ones being the Chief Clerkship of the Commisary Department of the Wabash Railroad with headquarters at St. Louis, Missouri. In 1912 Col. James E. Stewart, Inspector in Charge of the Chicago Division, wanted him to accept the appointment of a Post Office Inspector without an examination, quite a signal honor. He declined both these offers as each would have entailed a considerable amount of traveling to which he had never been accustomed and which was not to his liking.

Mr. Joseph Mayworm, Assistant Post Master of Detroit, Frank S. Knowles, Assistant at Jackson, and the writer organized the Michigan State Association of Assistant Postmasters. Mr. Knowles served as the first president for two years and the writer as secretary for the same period, after which he was elected president for three consecutive years.

It was at this time that he became affiliated with the National Association and was appointed Chairman of the Resolution Committee, a rare privilege to be bestowed upon a person representing one of the smaller offices.

This appointment threw him in direct contact with Dr. Charles P. Grandfield, then First Assistant Postmaster General. The two became very warm friends and many resolutions enacted by the National Association gained favor with Dr. Grandfield,

who had the ability to present them to the Post Office Department in such a manner that they were accepted and became additions to the Postal Laws and Regulations.

Mr. Munn held this position until this organization and the State Association of Supervisor Officials were merged.

(Author's comment:

One of the sad moments in my business career was the ousting of Robert D. Gifford as Postmaster. Mr. Gifford was the publisher of the Eaton Rapids Journal, and perhaps he printed something in its columns that was scornful of the political party then in power. They were determined to oust him.

Two post office inspectors, Arthur Hamilton of Grand Rapids and William Walters of Detroit, were sent here to check the office. They went through the office with a fine tooth comb; they gave the office a clean slate. They appeared again in about ten days and went through the same procedure with the same results.

This was not sufficient; Mr. Gifford must be relieved of his commission; the charge—"Pernicious Political Activity."

It was my policy to have every department in the office open for inspection at any time, and we never received a severe reprimand. I was ably supported in my efforts by these efficient clerks: Heileman O. Miller, Homer O. Eckard, and Herbert A. Gillett.)

PERRINE'S DAM

One of the old land marks in this locality was the historical Perrine's Dam located two miles south of the city on Grand River (now Smithville). A document from the Office of the Secretary of State at Lansing discloses the fact that an Act was approved April 2, 1850, by the State Legislature, granting a permit to erect this dam.

The Act in part:

Section I. Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, that Reuben Perryne and David Perryne (now spelled Perrine)—be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to build a dam across the Grand River in the County of Eaton on section two, in township one north of range three west, the dam to be built on the south-east quarter of said section.

Section II. Said dam shall not exceed six feet in height, and the occupants shall construct therein or thereat, a convenient lock, for the safe passage of boats, rafts, and other water crafts, and such lock shall be constructed at such time and with such dimensions as may be ordered by the County Judge of the County of Eaton.

Section III. Nothing in this act shall be construed as to authorize the persons above named . . . to enter upon or flow the land of any person or persons.

The above is given that the reader may be informed of the procedure entailed in securing the permit to erect a dam in its primitive state.

There were four Perrine brothers, Reuben, David, Solomon C. and George. The three former were farmers and closely allied. No mention is made of George, but he was a mason who settled in the village where he secured employment.

Reuben was undoubtedly the oldest as he became a land owner in 1835, settling in the southern portion of section one in Hamlin township and in 1836 on a parcel of land in section seven, Onondaga township (now the V.F.W. National Home).

That parcel of land, southeast portion of Section two, Hamlin township (site of the dam) was acquired from the Government by J. Ford in 1836, later transferred to George Foote and from him to C. C. Darling. C. C. Darling and wife transferred it in 1850 to Solomon C. and David Perrine and they deeded it to William Smith in 1887.

The late Solomon C. Perrine's farm (now owned by Ben Fries) in section two, Hamlin township, was taken up from the Government by John S. Fairfield in 1836. After several transfers it became the property, in 1856, of Joshua P. Taylor, who sold it to Solomon C. and David Perrine in 1866. Solomon became the sole owner in 1869. Thus it appears that Solomon C. and David Perrine owned the land on either side of the dam while Reuben and David secured the water right.

In many cases in the early days, dams were built of logs with board chutes. This dam was constructed of stone and without a doubt was built by the brother, George Perrine.

Besides custom sawing at their mill, the firm manufactured many different articles, but specialized in handles, selling their entire output to a firm in Jackson, later becoming the American Fork and Hoe Company. As late as 1880, although the dam was partially in ruins, yet operating, when we kids were skating up the river, we saw Uncle David (as we called him) standing in the door-way of a storage building. We stopped to visit with him, and saw corded up in the building what must have been scores of bundles of handles.

Thus Perrine's Dam was a potential factor in the development of this community both commercially and industrially.

David must have purchased the farm originally owned by Reuben in section one, Hamlin township in 1836, as he lived there up to the time of his death.

The Perrines were one of the finest pioneer families in the locality.

THE PETTIT BOYS

George and Merton Pettit, the only sons of Melvin and Jane (Munger) Pettit were born in this city in 1866 and 1869 respectively.

In 1871 their mother passed away and the boys went to live with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. P. Kelsey Bromeling. A year later George came to this city to school and lived with his grandmother, Mrs. Polly Munger, who built the house now the home of ex-mayor Robert D. Gifford. In 1884 he entered the employment of his uncle, J. Wesley Munger, in his hardware store. He purchased a half interest in the business and three years later, 1891, he became sole owner, Mr. Munger moving to Charlotte and engaging in a similar business there.

In 1893 he sold half interest in the store to H. C. Minnie, the firm name being Pettit and Minnie. The following March Mr. Pettit was stricken with a malady that caused his death.

"Doc" Pettit, as George was familiarly known, was one of the young business men that this city could ill afford to lose. He was honorable in his dealings, well liked by everyone, and his untimely death came as a shock to his host of friends. He was married to Miss Alice Andrus and to this union two sons were born, Harold and George L.

Next of kin that are living are: Harold's children, Mrs. Gloria Walworth and Mrs. Virginia Walworth, both of Lansing; Mrs. Jacqueline Wheeler of Mason and Merton Richard of this city. George's sons,—George Jr. and Hallett.

Merton continued to live with his uncle and aunt, took an active part in the farm work and attended the Rogers district school. The Bromelings had no children; Mert was adopted and took their name. (I hope this explains to the reader how and why Merton Pettit Bromeling was an uncle to Harold and George Pettit). At odd times when Mert was not busily engaged on the farm he assisted in his brother's store, and in 1894 he opened a hardware store in Onondaga. When his brother was taken, Mr. Minnie and Alice Pettit, the brother's widow, prevailed upon him to move his stock of hardware here, which he did, buying one-half interest of Mr. Pettit's share in the business, the firm name being Pettit, Minnie & Company. In 1898 he bought Mrs. Pettit's entire interest in the store, the firm being Minnie and Bromeling.

The mother died in 1901 and Mert was appointed the guardian of Harold and George Pettit, his brother's sons.

Now the golden opportunity had presented itself. Now was the time he could repay to his brother's family the kindness that was extended to his brother and himself, when their mother was taken and they were welcomed into the home of their uncle and aunt, the Bromelings.

The boys became sole owners of the home their father had inherited from his grandmother. Mert and Mrs. Bromeling moved in with them, and made a home for their nephews as though they were their own sons.

Both boys graduated from the city schools, Harold in 1909, George in 1911. Harold was employed in his uncle's store until 1913 when he and Paul Hale purchased the Furniture and Undertaking business of Vaughan Brothers. The firm sold out in 1921 to John Bunker and Harold became affiliated with the Ford Automobile Garage, Mr. Bromeling becoming the authorized Ford agent in 1914. He previously had sold his interest in the hardware to his partner, Mr. Minnie, and had purchased the hardware stock of Spears and Schofield.

Mr. Hale moved south and became connected with a bank in DeLand, Florida.

Harold again entered the undertaking business, in 1931, with C. G. Rice, who retired from the firm in 1944. It is now the Pettit Funeral Home.

George, after two years in the University of Michigan, concluded that he would rather be in the mercantile business than in a profession, so he entered his uncle's hardware business in 1913, and two years later bought one-quarter interest in the store which he still retains, the firm name being Bromeling and Pettit. In 1915 Mr. Bromeling sold an interest in the Ford Agency to George and in 1927 to M. R. Foster of Howell. Wayne Gibson became a member of the Agency in 1948. In 1947 George L. Pettit's sons, George L. Jr., and Hallett E., became members of the Bromeling and Pettit hardware firm.

Mr. Bromeling liked the big open spaces, loved nature to the uttermost, and was never happier than when he was accompanied by his dog and gun in search of wild fowl or was flipping a fly to entice the finny tribe.

He was a financier and one of the foremost business men of his time. He was civic-minded, and it was mostly through his efforts that the city had its celebrations that drew thousands of visitors here for a holiday.

He had a hobby, a brass band. When he was a young man he joined the West Aurelius Band and became affiliated with the local organization when he moved to this city. As to his loyalty—how many business men are there with the same financial interest as he, who would don a heavy uniform with a choker collar and parade through the streets in the hot sun playing a horn?—Not many!

A PLEDGE—

Mert Bromeling and the writer were warm friends. We agreed that for the first to go, the other would furnish a fine band at his funeral. Mr. Bromeling was taken in September, 1930, and the writer fulfilled the promise to his esteemed friend.

Musicians from many near-by cities had at different times played with the local organization, so at the news of Mert's

passing forty answered the call. It was said that the band sounded like a huge pipe organ, as with measured tread they played Mert's favorite dirge, "Peace," from the home to the Catholic Church. But this was not the end; the entire cortège accompanied the remains to the Munger Cemetery—four miles north. At a certain point in the ceremony the band played the hymn of hymns, "Nearer My God to Thee," and after Father Lockwood had given the last rites over the bier, a solo cornet player sounded taps and all was over. As Munn's Band left the scene they were thankful they had had a part in fulfilling the promise of its leader to their esteemed companion.

THE REYNOLDS FAMILY

Stephen Reynolds and wife were both natives of Connecticut, who migrated to Canandaigua County, New York, and followed farming for a number of years.

In December, 1835, Stephen came to Eaton County and secured a tract of government land in Section 36, Hamlin township, the first man to settle in that part of the township. He returned to his home and the following September moved his family here to establish a home in the wilderness and literally to hew a farm in the midst of the native forests and erect a primitive log cabin for his family.

They were the parents of a large family. The children grew to maturity and five of the boys remained in this locality. William, who selected farming for his vocation, purchased land in Section 21, 22, Hamlin township. Isaac N. farmed for a short period of time, then came to the village and entered the mercantile business. Later he bought wool and grain and had the use of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Elevator for the latter. His home is the present residence of Dr. Bert Van Ark, and was a show place in the early days, as it is now.

Rufus H. was in the boot and shoe business, was a nimrod, and spent considerable time in hunting and trapping during the seasons.

B. Franklin was a carpenter.

Stephen H. followed mining in the West for several years. Frank and Stephen served in the war, both being attached to

Company H, 42nd Illinois Infantry. Frank enlisted August 14, 1861, and was honorably discharged January 12, 1862, a corporal. Stephen enlisted July 31, 1861, and was honorably discharged April 4, 1865, a lieutenant. There was one thing these five brothers all had in common; they all wore whiskers.

Isaac was one of the foremost instigators of the Red Ribbon movement. This was the time when many of our foremost leading business men signed the temperance pledge, donned the red ribbon and never broke faith. He also sponsored the building of the "Red Ribbon Hall" and it was under his personal management for many years.

Next of kin that are living are: Isaac N.'s grandchild, Mrs. Floy Shepard of Charlotte; William's grandchildren, Ivan of Eaton Rapids, George in California and Mrs. Edith Burnett in Jackson; Rufus H.'s granddaughter, Mrs. Marion Hale in Lakeland, Florida; Stephen, his daughter, Mrs. Carrie Barracks, in Pierceton, Indiana; Josephine Shaw, her son Floyd in California.

O.H.P. SPRINGER of PETRIEVILLE

Petrieville, a small hamlet located three miles northeast of this city, occupies an advantageous point on Grand River, and as the stream winds around, it creates a beautiful setting 'neath the sturdy oaks, maples and the mournful weeping willows. Here in its seeming solitude have lived inventive geniuses and personages of note.

An act of the State Legislature under date of February 16, 1842, gave John Garrow authority to erect a dam in Section 26 (this point) in Eaton Rapids township, and also gave Samuel Hamlin the same privilege in Section 3 in Hamlin township, located in this city. Whether or not Mr. Garrow ever exercised his franchise there is no record, nor of any other person erecting a dam, but the activities of the place seemed to center around one man, O. H. P. Springer by name, who constructed a dam at a much later date.

(Clarence P. Springer, a son, furnished the writer with a majority of the following material).

Mr. Springer was born in Erie County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, enlisted in the army on August 9, 1862, in Company

A, 101st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged August 11, 1865.

Knowing the destruction of buildings incident to the war, in 1866 he and two companions decided to erect a saw mill on the table lands of central Tennessee. It was too soon after the war for the southerners to forget, and evidently the newcomers had been spotted as Yankees. They were ordered to leave, which they were very glad to do after receiving their third notice to evacuate.

The following year Mr. Springer came to Eaton Rapids by stage coach and engaged in building a dam on Grand River, probably at Petrieville, as the dam in this city had been built in 1842. He was married to Electa Boardman on March 16, 1867.

At his enlistment into the army he was classified as a blacksmith, and the natural supposition is that the blacksmith shop was erected first and the saw mill shortly afterward. The grist mill was built in the early '70's by Matt Jarbo and later owned and operated by Enoc C. Osborn; the axe factory was brought into being later through the efforts of Mr. Springer.

As the industries increased, more homes were built and the families began to enlarge. What a peaceful little village! The sound of the grinding of golden grain from the fertile fields for flour; the buzz of the busy saw as it severed the huge logs, taken from virgin forests, into lumber for use of the carpenter in his building; and the clanging of the merry anvil in the blacksmith shop across the river were sweet music to the ears of the populace, and made life worth living in this harmonious community.

During this time a near accident occurred that might have cost Mr. Springer his life. In those days the majority of the men wore their hair long, and Mr. Springer was no exception. There was a shaft for power from the saw mill. On one occasion he was going down the incline that lead under the mill when the wind blew his hair over the shaft and it began winding around it. Luckily, on the shaft there was a large pulley near; he grabbed it and had sufficient strength to stop the power. He was soon released from his precarious position. His scalp was torn loose but

not severed.

He was a very aggressive business man as may be gathered from an item in the Eaton Rapids Journal under date of April 7, 1880. We quote the following: "O. H. P. Springer has a contract to manufacture 130,000 plane stakes and is employing ten men."

His next venture was installing and operating a saw mill at West Branch in 1882, but he disposed of it the following year and purchased H. P. Webster's interest in the firm of Webster, Cobb and Company, the firm name being changed to Springer and Cobb. In 1885 the firm was again changed to Springer and Jensen. He built a beautiful home and moved his family here in 1884. In 1889 he disposed of his interests in the lumber yard to H. P. Webster and retired from active pursuits to a leisure which he had justly earned. He remained financially interested in several enterprises, one as director of the Michigan State Bank.

Next in kin of the Springer family that are living are: Mrs. Cora Horner and daughter, Mrs. Norma Toncray of this city; Clarence P. Springer and wife, Minnie and daughters, Mesdames Neva Kidder, Ruth Wedgworth and May Taylor, all in Belle Glade, Florida; Mesdames Ida Putnam of Goodrich, and her daughters, Mrs. Grace Black, Penn State, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Louise Gammon, Boulder, Colorado; Minnie Washburn and son Arthur of Grand Rapids; Laverne Springer, wife Blanche and children Perry H. and Maurice of Grand Rapids; and Mrs. Genese Van Derputum of San Diego, California.

Next of kin of the E. C. Osborn family living is Mrs. Almerine Montgomery of Ann Arbor.

THE STIRLING FAMILY

The name Stirling has been associated with our city since 1839 when David came here with the intention of locating, but did not take up a residence until 1847. His brother William is listed as a taxpayer in 1844 and the second brother, James, came a little later.

As far back as the oldest residents can remember Stirling Brothers (William and James) operated a grocery store in the

building now owned and occupied by the Heminger Real Estate and Insurance office. J. Watson, a son of James, was clerk.

In 1887, M. D. Crawford, a brother-in-law of Watson (he married Belle Stirling) gave up farming in Springport Township, moved here, and Watson and he bought the Stirling grocery and operated two stores, one on the west side of South Main Street and the other in the Walter Block.

In 1902 the two stores merged and moved to the double store now occupied by the W. R. Thomas Store.

This partnership was intact until 1920 when Mr. Crawford sold to his partner, who passed away shortly afterward. The store was operated for a period of seven years by his daughter, Miss Helen Stirling.

Throughout its early history the firm did an enormous business in both wholesale and retail, selling wholesale to those in a similar business in the rural centers. They had their butter and egg wagons, stocked with groceries, on the road practically all of the time (Ira Galvin, Dan Shufelt, Henry A. Goodrich and Arthur Bell were some of the drivers) and during the egg-laying season shipped two carloads of eggs weekly, slaughtered and shipped tons of poultry in barrels and butter packed in firkins, all of which had ready sale in eastern markets.

Perhaps one reason for their phenomenal success was their financial status. Mr. Crawford was a shrewd buyer and many articles of merchandise were purchased in carload lots. They bought from eight to ten carloads of sugar and five to seven cars of salt annually. He made regular trips to Chicago and purchased large quantities (many carloads) of merchandise from the Underwriters Salvage Company, besides attending the sale of bankrupt and fire sale stocks. On one occasion he bought and had stored such a large quantity of cigars that any wholesale concern would have been glad to acquire them.

In visiting with this venerable merchant and financier the writer recalled many happenings to his mind, but time and space forbid giving them in detail. Many times he said, "I had forgotten that," and then would reel the instance off so rapidly that one would almost think that it had been prepared for a broadcast.

With a smile on his face and a shake of his head, he concluded, "Those were the happy days—how times have changed." Yet my esteemed friend has passed the more than four-score mark and his mind is as clear and alert as in the eighties when he began "chasing nickles" in the old grocery store from sixteen to eighteen hours—a daily vigil or grind.

Next of kin that are living: J. W. Stirling's daughter, Miss Helen Stirling of this city; M. D. Crawford's daughter, Mrs. F. Q. Murphy of Lansing.

THE VAUGHAN FAMILY

The five sons of Joshua Vaughan—Morgan, Squire, Wesley, George, and Don—were born in West Shelby, New York, and migrated here in the early 1860's; the former three located in Eaton County and the latter two in Ingham County.

All were farmers except Morgan who, after a few years in the mercantile business, operated his private bank. He was forced to close it in the 1870's.

Squire owned the farm out Canal Street, (recently sold by John Eldred), and operated a dairy business for some time. Later he moved to the village and built a home on the present site of the Martin Hansen residence.

Wesley owned and operated the farm (now the Roy Hahn farm on M-50), and for many years bought grain and wool and stored the former in the Michigan Central Railroad elevator. He built the W. Vaughan block with living quarters above, and later the palatial residence on South Main Street now the Pettit Funeral Home. Jay, his son, was affiliated with his father for many years. Later he moved to Detroit and contracted for the construction of the foundation of the Ford building, one of the earlier skyscrapers in our metropolitan center. He patented and manufactured the Vaughan Bone and Meat Cutter with headquarters in Chicago. It is universally used in meat markets. Relatives living are his widow Ethel and foster son, Gordon, of LaPorte, Indiana.

Mary H., Wesley's daughter, married Russell S. Spencer, a hardware merchant in Charlotte.

George located in Onondaga Township on the farm now

owned by Walter Price. His two sons, Julius and Don, followed their father's vocation until they purchased the furniture and undertaking business of Charles T. Hartson. They razed the old Eaton Rapids House and built the Vaughan Brothers block in 1912 (now the Municipal Building).

Don, also a farmer in Onondaga township, had two sons, Charles and Fred. The former married Myrtie, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harwood. Her brother, Floyd Harwood, and husband, Charlie Vaughan, were conductors on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad. Mrs. Tom Harwood (Angeline) and her sister, Mrs. Merritt H. Lewis (Phoebe), were daughters of the Hyatt family, early settlers in Hamlin township. Phoebe's husband, Mr. Lewis, was a stone mason and in later years was drover and shipped many carloads of stock annually to Chicago and Buffalo.

Next of kin that are living: Squire's grandson, Vaughan E. Davis of Dearborn; Wesley's granddaughter, Helen Cowan in Charlotte, and his son Jay's foster son, Gordon, of LaPorte, Ind.

THE WAGNER FAMILY

William D. Wagner was a native of Erie, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Williamston where he was affiliated with his father in the mercantile business. He had musical inclinations but only followed them for a brief period.

He joined the editorial staff of the Williamston Enterprise and, being poetry-minded, many of the fine verses of yesteryear were from his pen.

He occupied the same position with The Review in this city, but resigned and became the head clerk in the Stirling and Crawford Wholesale and Retail Grocery Store.

He was elected to the office of Supervisor, Assessor and Poor Commissioner of this city, which post he held up to the time of his death.

Next of kin living—Mrs. Bertha Munn.

Roy D. Wagner was a musical prodigy inheriting his talent from his father, William D. Wagner.

He played the accordion well while still in dresses. He became a cornet soloist and was a member of the Baird Opera

House Orchestra in Lansing when in his teens. Before he reached his majority he toured the country with the Steubegen Orchestra of Boston that accompanied the Rob Roy and Wang Opera Companies. He appeared with the James Fulton Orchestra at Atlantic City and the Thousand Islands. One season he was with the Barnum and Bailey and Ringling Brothers Circus, occupying first chair and was assistant conductor. He was the leader of the famous all-professional rube band of the Si Plunkard Theatrical Company when he developed pneumonia from exposure and died at the age of twenty-seven years. Vocally he was a lyric tenor.

THE WALDRON FAMILY

John Waldron, a native of New York State, moved to Michigan following the Civil War, locating in Albion and later moving here with his family—the wife, John Jr., Andrew, Edwin, Paulina, and Mary—to follow the vocation of farming.

All of the boys were excellent horsemen, but John Jr., was the only one to continue in this line. He operated a livery barn for several years, at the end of West Hamlin Street, the present location of the C. J. Moore Implement store. This burned about 1880, and after that he directed his attention to the veterinarian profession, he having had experience in this line in former years.

He ran a stud barn on the east side of Hall Street across from the Michigan Central depot in connection with his practice, and had two excellent breed stallions, Membrino, a beautiful sorrel, and Charley Owen, a heavy black draft horse.

He married late in life to Mrs. Benjamin Knight, widow of the first settler.

Andrew and Edwin worked several years on the Grand River Valley and the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroads.

Andrew married Miss Emma Van Valkenburg and Edwin, Miss Pluma Dernier.

In 1882, Andrew went west, settling in Cavour, South Dakota, and Edwin went to the same place a year later, both taking up their full quota of land. In 1907 Andrew returned and bought the late Judge Henry A. Shaw farm. Paulina married Andrew S. Sweetzer, of Carvour, South Dakota, and they located later in

Lynn, Massachusetts. Mary married John Wood, an attorney, and in 1885 moved to Huron, South Dakota.

Next of kin that are living: Andrew's sons, Seward of Sioux City, Iowa, and John of this city. Edwin's children, Edwin Jr., of Casper, Wyoming, and Mrs. Pauline Mood of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Mary Waldron-Wood's son, Dr. Tillison Wood of Huron, South Dakota.

THE WEBSTER FAMILY

Aaron W. Webster, a native of the Empire State, came to Michigan in 1846, settling in Hillsdale County, and engaged in farming until 1861, when he moved to Coldwater and became interested in the mercantile business. In 1870 he moved here, and with his two sons, Hiram P. and George W., established a lumber business, the firm name being Webster and Sons. The yard was located on the east side of Grand River between the dam, State Street bridge and the now George L. Pettit Sr. home (all vacant property at that time). The firm had large lumber interests in Lake County, and in 1880 erected a saw mill there and were engaged in the manufacturing of lumber on a large scale; they had a ready sale for their output, Hiram P. being in charge of the enterprise.

In 1883, the father passed on; the lumber yard was sold and H. P. disposed of the lumber interests in Lake County.

In 1889, he re-entered the lumber trade. He and Fred Cobb purchased the yard formerly owned by the firm of which he was a member, and the firm of Webster, Cobb and Co. was organized. They later opened yards in Olivet managed by Ellsworth Long, in Charlotte by Mina Miller, and in Ypsilanti by George W. Webster and his son Claude.

On January 1, 1906, this firm was succeeded by H. P. Webster and Sons, his two sons Clyde I. and Harry A. becoming members of the firm. The latter assumed the managing of the business, while Clyde I. practiced law in Detroit and is now one of the Circuit Judges of Wayne County. The firm was associated with a syndicate that owned 25,000 acres of oak and cypress in Louisiana. William E. Webster moved here in 1897, and worked for the firm until 1914, when he acquired one-quarter interest

in the organization. In 1913, Harry moved to Detroit but did not dispose of his interest in the firm until 1928.

At the death of H. P. Webster, his son Clyde I. and William became owners, the latter managing the business until his death in 1945. In 1938, William's three sons, Van, Hiram and Robert, became members of the firm and have conducted the business since their father's passing. On March 31, 1949, they purchased the interest of Clyde I., reorganized the firm, and are now operating under the name of Webster Lumber and Coal Co.

Next of kin living of the H. P. Webster family are: Clyde I.'s children, Clyde I. Jr., Charles and Robert, all of Detroit; Harry's children, Aaron, Birmingham, Mich., Dorothy Cookson, White Plains, N.Y..

Hiram S. Webster, a brother of Aaron, came here from Hillsdale in 1870. He was a cooper by trade, and because this was a fruit center he erected a building (between the Chris Davidson home and the race), and operated a cooper shop for several years. Upon the death of his wife, he sold out and, with his son William, moved to California. He returned to Hillsdale a few years later where he died; the son came here and was employed in his cousin's (Hiram P.) lumber yard until he became a part owner.

He married Miss Gertrude Van Slack of Onondaga and they made this place their home.

The wife of Hiram S. was an experienced hairdresser and operated a tonsorial parlor and a millinery shop in a store located on the present site of the A. & P. Store.

Next of kin that are living are: William E. Webster—His sons, Van, Hiram and Robert, all of Eaton Rapids.

THE WEDGWORTH FAMILY

No doubt the foremost local woman to gain prominence in the business world is Mrs. Ruth Springer-Wedgeworth, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence P. Springer, now of Belle Glade, Florida.

Mrs. Wedgeworth was born in Petrieville, graduated from the local high school, and in 1925 received a degree from Michigan State College. She was married to H. H. Wedgeworth, a classmate

who specialized in plant pathology. They moved to Belle Glade where he conducted an investigation for the Everglades branch of the University of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.

Little was known about the scientific production of truck crops in the Lake Okeechobee area but it did not take Mr. Wedgworth long to be convinced of the section's potentialities. In 1932, he resigned his position and he and his wife purchased 320 acres of land. Gradually their holdings increased until they owned and operated approximately 2000 acres.

Mr. Wedgworth erected a large packing house and on account of the great amount of perishable produce raised, he was erecting a cold-storage, pre-cooling and ice plant when he was killed while installing some of the heavier pieces of machinery.

Mrs. Wedgworth carried on, leased what acreage she was unable to handle and shipped not only her crops but those of adjoining growers, if they met the standard requirements and quality in which the Wedgworth's excelled. She operates under the trade mark "Big W," which is known by all wholesale houses in the United States. Her customers are principally in the east and the record at the packing house shows that celery from the Wedgworth Farms has consistently sold for twenty-five cents a crate above the market price in New York.

The principal crops grown are celery, sweet corn, beans, cabbage, lettuce, escarole, and chinese cabbage. The largest crop is celery. The number of refrigerator cars shipped from the Wedgworth packing house last year (1949) was in excess of 1500.

Mrs. Wedgworth has an irrigating system well established. Being located near enough to Lake Okeechobee, with the aid of a \$25,000 pump she can either irrigate her farms or in case of heavy rain reduce the depth of water in the ditches to the proper level.

In addition to her truck farming activities she has gone into the cattle business with about 1000 acres of irrigated pastures on which she maintains 250 head of Brahman and Santa Gertrudis breeding stock. It is not an uncommon thing to have 1000 feeders for the market. She says, "Cattle raising has increased several hundred per cent in the past ten years."

Her success has been accomplished by hard labor and consistent supervision. She is conceded to be one of the wealthiest operators in the state.

Her son George received a degree in Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State College in 1950 and has returned to assist with the management of the business.

On June 30, 1950, Mrs. Wedgworth was married to D. E. Timmons, Agricultural Economist of the University of Florida.

THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

The parents of Thomas Williams migrated from Wales in 1824, and it is quite probable the father was a Welsh coal-miner, living near the city of Carnarvon, at which time Thomas and his twin brother William were four years of age. The family settled in Vermont where Thomas married Miss Esther Shaw, sister of Henry A. Shaw, one of Michigan's most noted criminal lawyers. They moved to Ohio and in the early '50's to this city. The family consisted of ten children, five reaching maturity, viz., three sons, George M., Henry I. and Pearl W., and two daughters, Elsie, who married William Rouse and lived in Bay City, and Daisy, who married George F. Boyden of Sheffield, Illinois.

Mr. Williams (the father) served three years in the Civil War, being honorably discharged March 20, 1865, from Company K, 10 M. C. Upon the completion of the Lansing-Hillsdale branch of the Lake Shore Railroad, he was appointed crossing master, a position he held until his retirement in 1898. He died in 1908 and his wife in 1901.

The two older boys were railroad builders. George surveyed, cleared the right of way, graded the road bed and laid the steel on the Michigan Central Railroad between Gaylord and the Straits of Mackinac. Later he became road-master of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad between Chicago and Davenport, Iowa, and at his death, his brother Henry succeeded to that same position.

P. W., youngest of the family, made good two of his chosen professions, telegraph operator and newspaper representative. At fourteen he started to learn the dot and dash language, and

one year later was on the payroll of the Michigan Central Railroad as a telegrapher, an assistant to the operator who had previously refused to start him off, saying "P. W. didn't have the brains to learn it."

"P. W.," as he is known throughout the whole country, could see a future in commercial telegraphy. He resigned his position with the railroad to accept one that paid only by experience, but he developed rapidly, held positions in Muskegon, Bay City, Nashville, and in Lansing through two sessions of the State Legislature.

At the age of twenty he was called to the main office of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Detroit, and so far as is known was the first telegrapher to copy messages direct from the wire on a typewriter. In 1898 he was sent to the Detroit Free Press where he was in charge of the telegraph department of the paper until he retired, forty-two years later.

During these years he was given many outside assignments including State and National conventions, baseball games, prize fights, national golf meets, yacht, motor boat and automobile races, and the funerals of two Presidents of the United States. In the early days of the automobile he was assigned as official telegrapher to most of the famous Glidden Tours that plied from Coast to Coast, and the Great Lakes to the Gulf. He was also the official telegrapher on several of the Edsel B. Ford airplane trips.

In 1910 he was assigned to accompany Col. Theodore Roosevelt, then Governor of New York, on his campaign tour through the eastern half of the United States, having charge of all press releases to the newspapers.

His most interesting assignment, however, came in 1903 when, on invitation of President Theodore Roosevelt, he accompanied "T. R." on his three months' pleasure vacation in the western states as his personal telegrapher. During World War I a sombrero, once owned by "Teddy," who gave it to P. W., sold at auction in Detroit, the purchaser bidding \$35,000, which was paid for in war bonds.

P. W. also spent one congressional session in Washington, where he worked in the Senate telegraph office. He spent many

evenings in some of the great press bureaus and quite often handled some of the Government code-cable wires.

Mr. Williams not only succeeded as a telegrapher but also as a newspaper writer and for twenty-five years was the Detroit representative of such metropolitan newspapers as the New York Times, New York Sun, New York World, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Kansas City Star, St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Los Angeles Times, and the Buenos Aires La Prensa, and various trade journals. For several years he wrote a weekly column of automobile news for a dozen newspapers, a field in which he was well-known.

Mr. Williams retired in 1939, and died on January 5, 1949, in Detroit. Mrs. Williams passed away four years ago.

The only kin are a nephew, Philip W. Boyden of Sheffield, Illinois, and niece, Mrs. Ray L. Junod, Monroe, Louisiana.

THE WOODRUFF FAMILY

Henry Woodruff was born in Washtenaw County on September 11, 1821, where he grew to manhood.

His early education was received in the school of "hard knocks," yet that did not affect him in the least, as he served as an apprentice in a blacksmith and wagon shop until he became proficient as a skilled workman, capable of operating a shop of his own.

In the early '70's our little village was the "boom town" of Southern Michigan and he, like hundreds of others, moved his family here.

Shortly after his arrival he, with his three sons, Charles, Eugene and Will, opened a shop which they maintained for some time, Charles repairing the vehicles and the others doing the blacksmithing.

On account of the father's advanced years, he gradually dropped out of the picture and the business was taken over by the two older boys, who operated it until 1902. When the Axe Factory of Petrieville moved in, Eugene became a member of the company. This was sold to a Detroit firm in 1907 and again the boys opened their doors and served the public until some years later when they sold the property to Horner Brothers Woolen Mills,

a part of whose office building now stands on the site.

In addition to Charles' work in the shop, he was engaged for many years in constructing farm buildings and business blocks in this city. He also built many homes, including one for E. E. Horner. During his last few active years, he was in charge of the machinery in the Horner Mills. He eventually resigned and spent his last years on the farm at Spicerville with his daughter, Mrs. Vee Freeman.

Eugene went to Jackson and then to Grass Lake where he was employed in shops. He later returned here and moved to the little George Booth farm on Charlotte road M-50, now the home of Martin Craun.

It would seem that the blacksmith trade clung rather closely to the Woodruff family as the husbands of both Nell and Brittie were both smithies. They married, respectively, Cadiwalder (Sandy) Bostwick and Frank Miller. Helen, the oldest daughter, married a man by the name of Copperrail, residing in Jackson.

Roy, the son of Charles, was born in this city and spent his early boyhood here, moving to Owosso at the age of twenty-one. He served through the Spanish American War in Company G, 33rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry. After his discharge he returned here with hardly enough clothes to cover his nakedness and in a very weakened condition, caused by typhoid fever. That disease prevailed in the island of Cuba, and caused many of the northern boys to lose their lives. He graduated from the Detroit College of Medicine (now Wayne University) in 1902 as a dentist, started practice in Bay City, and was chosen Mayor of his adopted city in 1911. In November, 1912, he was elected to the 63rd Congress and served one term and was re-elected in 1920. During the interim he served in World War I as a member of the 76th Division, with one year's service over seas, returning to this country as a Major of Infantry. He has represented the State continuously since then and has served as a Republican of the State for a longer period of years than any other person from Michigan, in either the House of Representatives or Senate. He has been appointed on many important committees during his tenure of office, being the ranking majority member of the House

Ways and Means Committee during the 80th Congress, and now its ranking minority member. Only six of the 435 members of Congress now in the House of Representatives have served longer in that chamber.

Next of kin that are living of Charles Woodruff family are the Hon. Roy Woodruff of Bay City, and his son and daughter, Devere Woodruff of Detroit, and Mrs. Gretchen Houck of Eaton Rapids. Eugene Woodruff family—Ivan Woodruff of Fresno, California; Mrs. Nell Bostwick family—Mrs. Flossie Crampton of Jackson.

OLD MAJOR

Major Woodfin, better known as "Old Major," was born in Virginia and at the age of seventeen was sold for \$1400 to a planter in Kentucky, where he lived until the outbreak of the war, when he was taken to Alabama. There he was married and raised a family.

At this time there was a considerable amount of unrest among the negroes, but by sheer cunning he evaded the guards and ran away during the night. His absence was not discovered until the following day. This gave him a good start ahead of the blood hounds, and being fleet-footed, he had traveled through Mississippi and entered Arkansas when he was overtaken.

On his return to his master's plantation, he was severely whipped. An iron collar was placed around his neck, with a bow of iron to which a bell was attached emanating from the collar over his head and beyond his reach.

He, with several others, was captured by the Union soldiers. They joined the Federal forces and with their families were taken to St. Louis, Missouri, where they went through rigorous military training.

At the close of the war the family moved to Illinois where his wife died. From there he and his children took up their residence in Lorain County, Ohio, and were brought here in 1870 by Porter Knowles.

"Old Major" was a blocksmith by trade, but was too old when he moved here for such strenuous work. He made a livelihood by being a porter at the different hotels.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

EATON RAPIDS VILLAGE INCORPORATION

"The Board of Supervisors of Eaton County, on the 14th of October, 1859, upon receipt of a petition for village incorporation from eighteen legal voters of Eaton Rapids, pursuant to an act of the Legislature, approved February 17, 1857, entitled 'an Act for the Incorporation of Villages' granted the prayer of the petitioners and issued the following order:"

"It is hereby ordered that the following described territory, viz. the northwest three-fourths of the north half, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section three (3), and the east half of the southeast quarter of section four (4) in township one (1) north, range three (3) west; also the east half of the southeast quarter of section thirty-three (33) and the west three-fourths of the south half and the south half of the northwest quarter of section thirty-four (34) in township two (2) north, range three (3) west, be, and the same is hereby incorporated under the name and style of 'The Village of Eaton Rapids' and the following persons, viz; James Gallery, Daniel Hosler and Alanson Harwood are hereby appointed the three inspectors of election of the first election to be held in said incorporated village."

"And it is hereby ordered that the first election in said incorporated village shall be held on the last Monday of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, between the hours of nine o'clock A.M. and four o'clock P.M. of said day, at the usual place of holding township-meeting heretofore held in the township of Eaton Rapids."

"The village was incorporated by the Legislature April 15, 1871 to include section 34 and the east half of section 33, in township 2 north and the north three-fourths of section 3, and the north three-fourths of the east half of section 4, in township

1 North, all in range 3 west. The village Charter was amended on March 12, 1873, and April 29, 1875."

The first election records of the village can not be found and it is therefore only possible to give a partial list of the officers.

Some of the presidents were Henry A. Shaw, James Gallery, Philip Leonard, Lucius A. Giddings, William D. Brainerd, Samuel M. Wilkins, Herbert H. Hamilton, and Clement A. Brown. Clerks were: Joseph Philips, William F. Stirling, John H. York, Herbert H. Hamilton, and Ken. C. Wright.

EARLY EATON RAPIDS TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

The records of the township of Eaton Rapids for the years 1842-49, inclusive, are not in the office of the town clerk, but beginning with 1850, the following is a list of the township officers up to and including 1879.

Supervisors: James Gallery, W. W. Crane, Rufus H. King, Rufus Hyde, Nehemiah J. Seelye, David B. Hale, George W. Knight, Benjamin L. Bentley, and J. W. Knapp.

Clerks: Alanson Harwood, Leonard W. McKinney, James Stirling, C. C. Chatfield, Philo W. Rogers, Isaac S. Smith, Francis W. Higby, Daniel W. Gould, M. D. Vaughan, Isaac M. Crane, Martin V. Montgomery, William D. Brainerd, William F. Stirling, Richard A. Montgomery, John M. Corbin, William H. Dodge, Herbert H. Hamilton, and C. F. Phillips.

Treasurers: Gardner T. Rand, N. J. Seelye, Rufus J. King, William Gallery, David B. Hale, Daniel W. Gould, David B. Hamlin, Benjamin L. Bentley, George W. Knight, Abner H. Brainerd, Frank Rogers, Lorin Harwood, N. Doak, K. C. Wright, and Frank B. Gannon.

EARLY HAMLIN TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

The records of the old township of Tyler cannot be found and it is possible only to give a few of the officers of the township of Hamlin, (beginning 1869), which are as follows:

Supervisors: Daniel Scott, George W. Knight, David B. Hale, and C. Marion Jennings.

Town Clerks: Hiram Smoke, L. B. Huntoon, Birney E. Shaw, John H. York, J. Warren Smith, Chester H. Cowan, and Alanson Harwood.

Treasurers: F. A. Long, Emerson Blodgett, Alanson Osborn, George E. Lake, G. D. Scott, Winfield S. Henderson, and Chester H. Cowan.

INCORPORATED AS A CITY

Like all municipalities our little village was overly anxious to become one of the few eligible to take the next step of importance, viz: to be chartered as a city.

Nature had blessed us a thousand-fold. The mineral water (practically a gold nugget) had been showered upon us and brought thousands to our doors. Our merchants, produce and grain dealers were alert, and by their aggressiveness had established a market second to none in this locality and nothing seemed to stand in the way of our being a trading center in this area. During the seasons when wool, wheat, oats, corn and beans were ready for market, our streets were packed with farmers coming for miles to take advantage of the ever-usual prolific market. I. N. Reynolds, Wesley Vaughn, and Charles E. Merritt bought wool for eastern mills, the two former persons bidding on the commodities, Mr. Reynolds utilizing the Lake Shore elevator and Mr. Vaughan the Michigan Central. Edward Gary and his two sons, Vern and Edward Jr., M. H. Lewis, and several others had been able to establish a good market for stock in both Buffalo and Chicago. Fruit, especially apples, was bought and packed in barrels by Wood and Hurd (Marshall and Marvin), M. J. Curtice, and several others. The apples were equal in quality and quantity to those of the Empire State, which had dominated the price for many years, but the Michigan apples were fast coming into favor.

We were incorporated and chartered as a city in 1881 and adopted the Mayor and Alderman system in vogue at that time. The city was segregated into three wards: The First Ward was all property east of Grand River and the Island. (The Island means the business section—all property between Spring Brook, North Main Street, and the race on South Main Street and Grand River on the east and Spring Brook on the west). Second Ward lay south of the race and the Third Ward all north of Spring

Brook. Two aldermen were elected from each ward and the Mayor, City Clerk, Treasurer, Supervisor, Police and Street Commissioner were elected at large. This was the governing body until 1905 when the city was re-incorporated and a new board was inaugurated known as the Light and Water Board which had exclusive jurisdiction over the utilities. Two other boards were established, the Cemetery and Library Boards, the latter being the only board still in existence.

While the records are on file, it would be an endless task to check them and to ascertain who held positions in the city government for a period of thirty-four years.

The partial list that follows was taken from the record of ordinances passed by the Common Council. Mayors serving the city were:

Herbert H. Hamilton, Fred Z. Hamilton, Samuel M. Wilkins, Charles S. Cobb, James B. Bradley, Charles T. Hartson, Hiram P. Webster, J. Warren Sheldon, John T. Hall, and David H. Long. City Clerks were William F. Stirling, Michael Kenney, George D. Wilcox, Homer S. Bentley, Lewis W. Toles, Winfield S. Henderson, James B. Russell, John J. Milbourn, Charles M. Bacon, George J. Schofield, and John J. Adams.

Others who have served as Mayors are: William Smith, Charles S. Horner, B. H. Custer, Bert Littell, Thomas B. True, William C. Whitney, and Charles B. Fowler, Sr.

In 1914 the city fathers were prevailed upon to change the Aldermanic form of government to that of a Commission governing body, and a special committee was appointed to prepare a new City Charter and present it to the electorate to vote upon its adoption at some future date.

This was a hard and tiresome task; Joseph B. Hendee, city attorney, procured similar charters of those cities operating under this system and selected the best portions from each that would be applicable to our needs, but at that many changes were thought advisable and made when the proposed Charter was completed and the following action taken:

At a meeting of the Charter Commission, Commissioner Horner offered the following;

That the Charter Commission of the City of Eaton Rapids,

Michigan, does hereby adopt the foregoing proposed Charter as presented at this meeting of the Commission and that the same be presented to the Governor of the State for his approval and in accordance with the statutes of the State of Michigan.

Accepted and adopted by unanimous vote of the Commission.

We hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the proposed Charter for the City of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, adopted by us August 31, 1914, Signed:

J. Sumner Hamlin, Chairman and Commissioner at Large; John J. Milbourn and Will L. Hurd, Commissioners at Large; Clarence D. Knapp, Commissioner from the First Ward; Edward E. Horner, Commissioner from the Second Ward and Charles M. Hunt, Commissioner from the Third Ward. Attest; H. S. De Golia, City Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commission. Approved; Woodbridge N. Ferris, Governor of Michigan; Dated September 5, 1914.

The electorate voted for and sustained the action of the Charter Commission at its election held December 7, 1914.

By this election the citizens expressed their everlasting gratitude to those worthy men who gave so liberally of their time to effect such a stable Charter for our guidance and to Mr. Hendee, who gave his adopted city the best in his power. Also, to Mr. De Golia, who was a walking encyclopedia on all sections of the Charter, its amendments and city affairs in general and served us as City Clerk for 18 years, and his passing was felt keenly by his host of friends.

Those serving as Mayor under this Charter are: J. Sumner Hamlin, Robert D. Gifford, Martin Hansen, John B. Davidson, James B. Bradley, Silas Godfrey, Alden G. Sheets, G. Elmer McArthur, Hiram V. Webster, John G. Davidson, and Heileman O. Miller.

THE ISLAND CITY

It is an uncommon circumstance for two towns in the same county to be given the same nickname; however, "The Island City" often refers to both Grand Ledge and Eaton Rapids. The former received the name on account of its "Seven Islands" with-

in a mile area of the main highway. Looking toward the high palisades or bluffs that rise from the north bank of the Grand one can see the beautiful panorama nature has bestowed upon our neighboring city. The latter was called that after the Mill Company in 1842 erected the power dam across Grand River and dug the race connecting the river with Spring Brook, thereby causing the business section of the city to be located on an island.

We could have been called "The City of Bridges," as the City Commission has fourteen bridges to maintain; this would keep any ordinary community in the red, but we are fortunate that our former governing bodies built wisely and well.

In all probability the first bridge was built in 1836 to span the race that led to the "Old Red Mill." In 1840 the north race was dug to furnish power for the saw mill and at this time a bridge was built across the race to accommodate those living north of the Spring Brook addition that had been platted. Bridges now span the north, center and south races.

At this time Bellevue was the capital or county seat of the county and was governed by Commissioners. (This was before the days of Supervisors). Col. John Montgomery was a Commissioner for three years during which time he worked for and was successful in getting a bridge over Grand River—probably at State Street. He was also a member when the county seat was moved to Charlotte. The South Main Street bridge was erected in 1842 to span the race consummated at that time.

During this period the majority of bridges were built with a covering like a shed with an opening at either end. Whether the State Street bridge was built along this line the writer is unable to state, but I do remember the old wooden bridges, the high truss type that preceded the two iron bridges on State and East Knight Streets built during the regime of Hiram P. Webster, then Mayor.

These two bridges have stood the test for over fifty years with only minor repairs until the State Street bridge was replaced recently by the beautiful cement structure.

The "L" Bridge

Only the members of the older generation know what to expect under this caption.

More than a century ago (1842), when the dam was built across Grand River and the race was dug connecting and consolidating the river and Spring Brook into one power, a bridge of some description had to be erected to span the stream.

The race cut across both Hall and Spicer Streets at such an angle that one bridge could be built to handle the traffic on both streets and it was so constructed in the form of an "L", the intersection being squarely over the race. Here Spicer Street Elm Street. It crossed the bridge over a marsh leading to the ended and the continuation of it west was given the name of village cemetery, (now the athletic field).

When the present concrete bridge was built, the plan was to change the course of the race by digging a channel some fifty feet south, erect the structure so that Spicer Street would be continued straight west and enter the bridge from the north at a right angle, but when the "fog cleared away," we had this "bottle-neck" affair which has and will be an eye-sore for generations to come.

Elm Street and its bridge were discontinued when one of iron was erected, and later the present concrete structure leading to the athletic field took its place.

Changing the Channel of Spring Brook

Mention has been made previously of the fact that the entire athletic field was covered by Spring Brook and was referred to as the Spring Brook pond. This was a breeder of ague, malaria and typhoid and those interested could see the advantage of changing the course of the stream, drying up the pond, thereby eliminating this hazardous condition, and also enhancing the water power privileges. The channel of Spring Brook was excavated east from the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Bridge (erected in 1872), cutting the large knoll south of the

burial ground in twain and then north, joining the race waters from Grand River which created a large reservoir that improved the water power materially. Dikes were thrown up on either side to keep the stream in its newly converted channel. They have answered the purpose fairly well.

Now when was this channel excavated? The writer has had the records searched in the State Highway, Library, and Conservation Departments and the Eaton County Abstract, Drain Commissioners and Register of Deeds Offices and there is nothing available, so it must have been done independently by the village governing body or by those owning the water power.

Arthur P. Green and L. M. Van Auker, young men of that era, were contacted and each thought it was done about 1875. E. F. Mix, who once owned the water power, believes the year mentioned is nearly correct.

The writer remembers when a board fence eight feet high was erected on the south bank of Spring Brook extending about 100 feet either way from West Street. This was built to furnish a swimming place for the boys, clad in nature's bathing suits, and was taken advantage of by scores of the kids who were anxious to become proficient in the art of swimming and diving. A stunt in those days was to hold a large boulder in one's hands and walk through the stream from one bank to the other and return, the boulder acting as a ballast to keep the boy's feet on the bottom. One water dog, Dennis G. Miller, was a wizard in the water. He was so slender (weighing about sixty pounds) that it took some weight to keep him down. His favorite ballast was a broken tombstone which answered his purpose well.

The Flood

It was in the spring of 1904. We had experienced an unusually hard winter. The snow had reached the depth of two feet and in many places more than that, and the thermometer had hovered on or below zero for weeks at a time. Those harvesting ice declared they had never seen it so thick and of such quality, clear as glass.

The January thaw that usually causes a semi-break-up had

but very little effect on the local conditions; yet no one seemed to be alarmed as we had an abundance of snow and ice before, but the elements stepped into the picture and practically reversed matters.

It was the fore part of April; the sun had shone brightly for several days, melting the snow. Naturally the streams began to swell; rain followed and the ice began to break up. Luckily the ice around Island Park moved first; then the ice above the dam started. The river was so swollen and the water in the basin was so high that when the mammoth cakes of ice came over the dam there was but a slight riffle. Ice was strewn all over the park and the lower island; trees were ruined and shrubs destroyed; everything in its path was swept along by the force of the water.

People crowded on both bridges and lined the banks of the river to watch the water of the roaring Grand as it tossed the huge cakes of ice about as though they were bits of driftwood. Darkness came and we could see the spectacle no longer. Soon all was quiet; the people had turned in for the night.

Hark! What was that? What is the hour? A whistle—at midnight! Horner's whistle was shrieking like a mighty siren. Lights began to flicker in the homes like fire-flies. "What has happened?" was the cry. The Spicerville dam had gone out and the water would reach us in half an hour; it was about on schedule, making its first appearance on Spicer Street.

As the water came rushing down upon us, the Fair Grounds (athletic field) was flooded and huge cakes of ice tore great holes in the turf as they were tossed about. The head gates had been raised to the fullest extent. Our great concern now was our bridges. One of the piers of the State Street bridge had been damaged. Men were pressed into service and worked diligently all night. The water kept rising until the island (business section) was practically covered. Watchmen were placed at all strategic points and with this assurance, the people returned to their homes to await the dawn of a new day.

Shortly after daybreak another alarm was sounded. An ice gorge had formed at the head of the island situated about a mile down the river, which caused the river to rise at that point and

the water to back up. The water on Main Street kept rising until it had reached the depth of more than two feet in many places. Boats and canoes were launched and several had their first, and no doubt their last, boat ride on Main Street.

Most business places were closed. Fred Rice and wife (later Mrs. Maude Harkness) kept their restaurant open (now the location of Whittemore's Cafe) and served the workmen their meals. They wore rubber boots, for the water was running through their restaurant at least a foot deep.

Everything was done to relieve the situation, but with no success until several charges of dynamite were set off. This was the solution. The ice jam was broken up, the water began to recede, and in twenty-four hours we were practically back to normal, with the exception of pumping water from the basements. We have had several experiences with high water, but this was the cap-chief of them all.

The Cemeteries

In the following lines the writer will endeavor to give you the exact location of the first burial ground. A large hill or knoll started on King Street at West Street and extended north to a point about half way across the gridiron on the athletic field (approximately 300 feet) and as to width, extended to the old high school building (razed in 1938) east and west beyond the Brookview Greenhouse. (The channel of Spring Brook had not been changed at that time). To gain an entrance to the cemetery, one would go west on Spicer Street, cross the old "L" bridge, and then continue west on Elm Street (discontinued). This naturally crossed where the two tennis courts are now situated. A bridge was elevated on piles that spanned a swale about fifteen feet across which led to the burying ground.

Evidently the village governing body saw the advisability of making a change and in the early '70's purchased forty acres of land, the present "Rose Hill Cemetery," and a little later acquired the forty acres adjoining it on the north. The original plat was laid out in blocks and lots by Eliab Dunbar, Sr., who had a general knowledge of architecture, designing, contracting and surveying and whose services were in great demand. There is no

prettier burial plot than Rose Hill, and it is rightly named.

The moving of the bodies to the new cemetery was under the supervision of Birney E. Shaw, who, if he were living, could write a mighty interesting history of our city. He was very methodical and his knowledge as to the location of monuments (surveyor's cornerposts) was upheld in all parts of the city. Almost by accident, Supervisor Hugh M. Hall came into possession of the record that told of the date of the removal of the bodies and the location of the family lots in the new cemetery. This book is in the handwriting of Mr. Shaw and the writer will vouch for its accuracy. This one record is valuable and will be preserved. The first removals were made November 6, 1874, and the following families were included: Mr. and Mrs. James Hyde and five members of their family, also Irene Kiper, Luther S. Noyes and Norman Smith.

A beautiful 168-crypt mausoleum occupies an advantageous point in the North plat—surrounded by shrubs and trees of various species that make the setting most perfect.

In the original plat, Sexton Hall has erected "The First Veterans' Perennial Memorial." It is unique in design. There is a replica of a high knoll with Wisconsin flagstone protruding from its side; a waterfall emanates from the summit and wends its way over the rocks, emptying into a millstone that has been concaved. This milestone once ground flour in the Old Red Mill in 1838. The overflow finds its way to a pool at the base and moves quietly under a miniature bridge where it joins other streams on their way to the sea. The knoll is graced with many varieties of shrubs. Adjacent to the road that surrounds the Memorial are scores of different perennials that bloom perfectly throughout the summer; it is beautiful in all of its appointments and it is doubtful if another of this design is in existence in the United States. The plot was designed by a landscape gardener at Michigan State College and the work was performed by Raymond Eubanks, a cemetery employee.

Oakwood Cemetery, to the south of Rose Hill, was formerly known as "King Cemetery." It was purchased from Rufus King, a supervisor who owned the farm south and across the highway. It is held by Hamlin township and supervised by its officers. The

cemeteries are separated by a ravine through which Morse Creek wends its way to Spring Brook.

Woodlawn Cemetery—About the same time that Rose Hill was started William A. Hall, father of Hugh M. Hall, laid out a plot of ground into roads, blocks and lots for a burial ground and it was given the name of Woodlawn. It was located where the greenhouse now stands in Hallwood Gardens, now owned and operated by Hugh M. Hall and son, Warren B. Hall. William Hall's wife and infant son were buried there but were later moved to Rose Hill, and the further use of Woodlawn Cemetery was abandoned.

The Lock-up

In every hamlet, village, city, county or state, whether civilized or in the state of savagery, ordinarily the first thing to be considered is the erection of a bastille, and our village wasn't long in falling in line. When the so-called "lock-up," designed especially for the transgressor, was brought into being in our village is beyond the knowledge of the writer; yet its existence is as vivid in his mind as though it were in operation today.

It was located on the plot of ground, on Hall Street, now occupied by the Williams Dairy Company. It was a wooden structure about twelve by sixteen feet, made of heavy oak plank, I believe. In the center was a hallway with a heating stove in the rear, and doors that led to the cells on either side.

In each cell was a bucket, a bunk with a tick filled with straw for a bed, and perhaps an old horse blanket for a covering in cold weather. The cells were made secure with a padlock. The outside door was of mighty heavy construction, hung on large strap hinges, and the padlock was the size of a small ham. A brass key in similar proportion (some exaggeration) completed the means of safety.

In the case of fire, there was no way possible to release a prisoner. In the front of each cell was a barred opening about eight by twelve inches, high enough for a person to look out, and this was the only means of getting air in the "dungeon." The writer managed to get a look into one of the cells when he was

just a young lad, and that was enough. A horse stall would be a palace.

As to the time the cells were to be renovated, I believe the schedule must have been lost. The term sanitation wasn't in Webster's dictionary, or the definition of the word was not clearly understood or was misconstrued. At any rate, the old "lock-up" was torn down, and new iron cages installed in the Fireman's Building. The Mayor and Common Council should be commended for their part in making this most-needed change possible. The worst criminal and lowest debaucher should be given some consideration.

Fire Department

One of the biggest hazards in any community is the demon fire.

The first fire equipment used here was the old bucket brigade which was operated with several men in line and a score or more of pails. The pails would be filled with water and passed on from one person to the next until they reached the conflagration. Then they were returned to be refilled. This was often with two lines in order not to cause confusion. While the method was very crude, it was quite effective, as the buildings in those days were generally one story in height.

The first fire-fighting apparatus was the old hand pump engine which was considered quite a piece of machinery at that time.

The fire engine house was located on the west bank of the river on the north side of East Knight Street. A unique fire alarm was conceived. Outside of the building a pole was erected upon which a large triangle was suspended. This was struck by a heavy sledge hammer, and as there were but few buildings to obstruct the sound, it could be heard all over the village. The first man on the scene gave the alarm and the apparatus was drawn to the fire by men. This was an improvement over the bucket brigade and was in use for several years.

The village had suffered numerous disastrous fires, the heaviest occurring in 1864, when nearly all of the business establishments in the place were destroyed and the prospects for the fu-

ture of the village appeared discouraging. But the merchants were loathe to give up, and with that firm determination to succeed, replaced the buildings with more substantial structures.

The Eaton Rapids fire department was organized in November, 1874, principally through the instrumentality of L. A. Bently and Frank Cully, the latter being chosen its first engineer. In the fall of 1874, a No. 4 Silsby steam fire-engine was purchased with a hose cart and all appurtenances at a cost of \$5,250. A hook and ladder truck was later added. One thing that prompted the purchase of this new fire-fighting equipment was the loss of the Vaughn House which had burned the previous summer. This was a severe blow as the cost of its construction was \$100,000.

On July 13, 1875, the village board ordained that the fire department should consist of a chief engineer, an assistant engineer, one fire warden in each of the three wards, and as many fire engines, hook and ladder, wagons and hose and bucket companies as the board of trustees should from time to time direct. From this it would seem that the trustees expected our village to grow to some magnitude. All firemen of this period were business and professional men and clerks, all determined to do their part in saving the village from further disastrous fires. At this time the department was composed of the following companies: Eaton Rapids Fire Engine Company No. 1, ten men, T. J. Bromeling, Foreman, F. M. Brainerd, Engineer; Eaton Rapids Hose Company No. 2, fifteen men, John Wootz, Foreman, John Pilmore, Assistant Foreman; Bessie K. Hook and Ladder Company No. 3, fifteen men, H. S. Maynard, Foreman, Michael Kenny, Assistant Foreman. The latter was fully equipped with all kinds of ladders, both single and extension, leather buckets, rope, axes, etc. Our local engineer had the advantage over most departments as we had a small stationary boiler that was heated at all times. This was connected with the engine by means of a shut-off valve, and kept the water in the boiler hot. As the engine left the house, a torch saturated with coal oil was applied to the fire box from underneath. Immediately the black smoke began pouring out of the stack and by the time the fire was reached and the hose laid, the men were ready to throw water.

Each decade had some particular kind of sport or entertain-

ment for those who cared to indulge in such activities. In the early '80's there were two, both emanating from the fire department.

One was to set the fire engine near a stream or reservoir, and those in charge of the host cart (a two-wheeled vehicle drawn by twenty men, with a reel upon which the hose was wound and a tongue with about 15 feet of rope attached for steering it, were to run forty rods, lay 300 feet of hose from the point where the engine was stationed and couple the hose to the engine and the nozzle to the other end of the hose. The idea was to see how little time was consumed from the start of the run until the two connections were made. (Water was sometimes thrown but not included in the contest.)

The hose boys record for the run of forty rods, laying 300 feet of hose and making the two connections was 1 minute and 24 seconds.

The other was the hook and ladder racing team. We had one of those also, known as the Bessie K., named for Bessie Kittredge, the youngest daughter of Kendall Kittredge, then the editor of the Eaton Rapids Journal.

The racing outfit was a skeleton affair sixteen feet long. About three feet above the bed of the truck there was a light iron rack held in place by iron posts emerging from near the wheels with an iron tubing around the top upon which the ladder rested. There were about twenty-five men in the team who made a very natty appearance in their white tights, black velvet trunks and shoes. One man was the ladder climber; two were ladder ballasts, with two ladder raisers, two steering the truck and the balance drawing it. The latter wore light leather harnesses about the shoulders through which their arms extended. A four-foot rope was snapped to the back of the harness and also to the long rope that extended from the tongue of the truck to the lead men. This allowed their arms and hands to be free. They presented a fine spectacle when they swung into action.

The ladder was thirty feet in length and the distance of the run was forty rods. About a foot from the end of the ladder were sharp iron shoes and on the outside an iron projection about one foot in length, heavily padded. The men were to start from a standstill position and run to a distinguishing line. As they drew

near the line, the ballast men grabbed the ladder and sat down on the projections, which naturally hoisted the ladder in the air. It was held aloft by the ladder men while the climber made his ascent and touched the top round. The team that consumed the least number of minutes and seconds from the time of starting until the climber touched the top round was declared the winner. The distance the ladder was set from the distinguishing line was also taken into consideration. (The Bessie K. racing team made a run of forty rods, staked their ladder, and had the climber at the top in fifty seconds.)

The local boys attended many tournaments and won several prizes, but the organization from Charlotte were state champions and Rice MaCamman, that grand old man who passed to his reward in 1946, was the last surviving member of the famed racing team.

In 1881 the Fireman's Hall was built, where the equipment has since been housed. For many years the common council held meetings on the second floor.

In 1941 the writer visited Ed. Pickett, the Eaton Rapids ladder climber, at his home near Tampa, Florida. During our visit our conversation drifted back to the old "Bessie K." racing team. Mr. Pickett explained that the "Black Squirrel" (Charlotte Climber) had the advantage over him as he, "the Squirrel," climbed the ladder at an angle of about forty-five degrees, while his ladder was almost perpendicular which was much more difficult to climb, and thereby shortened "the Squirrel's" time by a few seconds. He is the only living member of the "Bessie K." racing team of which we always felt so proud.

A few years later, horses drew the engine to the fires and the balance of the equipment was taken care of by the volunteer firemen; the department was motorized in 1914. It now has two-well-equipped fire trucks that serve the city and rural community.

Our last big fire (until the Hansen Packing Company fire in 1950) was in 1911 when the Anderson House burned. This pretentious building was the largest in the county and the loss of it will always be keenly felt, especially by those of yesteryear, as it was the center of all social gatherings.

Post Office

One of the first things that enters a person's mind when sojourning in a strange land is to receive news from home. Evidently that was one thought uppermost in the minds of the few persons in our little hamlet and of those adjacent country folks, for they availed themselves of the opportunity of securing the service extended to all pioneers. In 1838 the government established a post office here, it being the second in the county, the mail to be delivered once a week. The writer obtained the following information from an early pioneer. The mail was delivered by a carrier on foot from Jackson. He evidently traversed the Clinton Trail to a point south from here, then came due north to our village; later the carrier made his delivery on horseback. In 1845 the Clinton Road, which had been made accessible for vehicles, was used. In 1850 a contract was let to have the mail delivered by stage; this was in force until about 1870. Then the stage coach passed out of existence and the railroads became the new means of transportation taking over the duties of carrying the mail, which they have done most of the time since. As the country grew, railroads became more active and mail transportation increased in proportion. For many years this city enjoyed the service of fourteen daily mails, ten on the Michigan Central and four on the Lake Shore.

The advent of the automobile has changed everything. Concrete highways were constructed in every direction; trucks began hauling freight; the motor bus cut in on the transportation of passengers and the railroads were obliged to take it "on the chin." As a result, the service on the Lake Shore has been discontinued; the rails have been withdrawn and service is given only to those enterprises located on this line by feeders from other roads over that portion of the road that was left intact and made available by means of a "y."

The business of the country as well as our local post office during the past few decades has increased a hundredfold and yet the mail service has been practically wrecked. Only four daily mail trains remain on the Michigan Central, six times a week,

two during the day and two at night, and truck service is used between Lansing and Albion twice on weekdays. One department of the service advertised so extensively by the government is practically "nil;" that is the register system. There is now only one dispatch and receipt of registered mails daily, while in other days there were twelve.

While some business is conducted by telegraph and telephone, yet the mail service has never lost its place as the most reliable means of communication by the populace.

The one thing that has stimulated the service in the past few years was the establishing of the air mail which is accessible to practically every country on the globe. The post office department is establishing full mail service in trucks, equipped the same as mail cars on the railroad, with the mail worked by clerks in charge. If this service should ever become general it might take over some of the lesser lines, but as for replacing the railroads on long hauls and heavy mailings it will be some time before this change is culminated. Since the establishing of the post office 110 years ago there have been fourteen postmasters, viz: Benjamin Knight, Amos Hamlin, William M. Tompkins, Henry Jackson, J. B. Ten Eyke, Horace Hamilton, John H. Hamlin, Sumner A. Whitehead, William F. Stirling, Henry C. Minnie, James H. Gallery, J. Sumner Hamlin, Robert D. Gifford and William V. Clegg. The one having the longest tenure of office was Mr. Hamilton who served for eighteen years. Mr. Clegg now has eighteen years of service (1933-51).

There is some interesting information regarding the different locations of the post office, only five in seventy-nine years. During Mr. Hamilton's regime the postal business was conducted in the drug store of his sons, "Hamilton Bros.", now Tom Mingus' shoe store. Wesley Vaughn erected a building on the present site of the Standard Oil Co. where it was housed for eight years. This structure is now on Hall Street and was until recently the center building of the Eaton Stamping Company. The store recently vacated by the Fred Gunnell Barber Shop was built for a post office by a corporation consisting of eight business men. There it was operated for thirty years but on account of the growth of the business and the increased number of employees, it became

inadequate. The building now occupied by the Chevrolet Motor Sales was erected by H. C. Minnie and John H. Ramsay; there the post office was located for thirteen years up to the time of moving into the new federal building.

As to the limit in the tenure of office, the writer wishes to step into the picture; I was sworn into the service on the 28th day of October, 1890, and was retired on the 31st day of July, 1941, a period of fifty years, nine months and four days. I can truthfully say that I never lost a day's pay—a record of which I feel very proud. When I entered the service Eaton Rapids was a poor third class office with but \$2,800 gross receipts for the year. I saw it advanced to a second class office with receipts of about \$30,000; now it has a first class rating with receipts over \$50,000, half of this amount being largely due to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home's Christmas seal mailings each fall.

I was very much attached to the work; I loved it and in fact I grew up with it. I never had watching the clock or the pay check as my objective but was solely concerned with discharging the duties to which I was assigned to improve the service.

There were many things worthy of note that transpired during my regime. I shall relate but a few. Our first rural routes were established September 1, 1900, and the number gradually increased until we had ten. I kept busy in this department and I believe I was responsible for the last four routes, principally because we wished to retain those in the rural districts that had always received their mail from this office. Then came the postal savings department which was secured early in its infancy at our Assistant Postmasters' Association meeting held in Muskegon in 1911. The parcel post division was set in operation and then to cap it all there was the establishing of city delivery service in 1913. Mr. Minnie and I will have to take credit for that.

Certain requirements had to be met. I walked the streets numbering the business places and residences, ascertained the number of street signs required, and reported a duplication in the names of some of the streets. For this service the Common Council named a street in my honor, a reward which is more precious to me than silver or gold, as it will go down to posterity

that the little street bearing my name symbolizes the fact that a chap by the name of Munn passed this way.

POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES WITH EXTENDED SERVICE

W. Scott Munn, Heileman O. Miller, Homer O. Eckard, Herbert A. Gillett, Will N. Camp, Oscar F. McAllister, Andrew J. Hicks, George W. Phillips, William F. Reh fuss, Robert M. Christie, Raymond Norton, Earl Norton, Vern S. Cosgray, Vern R. Doty, Otis F. Finch, Earle J. Miller.

The City Library

The Eaton Rapids City Library has a historical background dating back to February 28, 1876, when a group of young people met to organize a Literary and Social Club. Their main object was to establish a public reading room and library. Those attending the meeting were:

Wesley Sears, Frank E. Smith, James H. Gallery, Jennie Adams, Emma Gallery, Mary Lake, Mary Dunbar, Nellie O. Law, Edward S. Ellis, Herbert F. Reynolds, William H. Reynolds and Alice Kearney.

Wesley Sears, then Superintendent of the Public Schools, was appointed a committee of one to draft a constitution and by-laws, which were accepted and adopted at a subsequent meeting. The club was given the name of Philorhetorian League. Their motto was: "Per Aspera ad Astra" ("Over rough ways to the stars").

The first officers elected were: Wesley Sears, *President*; Edward S. Ellis, *Secretary*; James H. Gallery, *Vice President*; Herbert F. Reynolds, *Treasurer*; Jennie Adams, *Librarian*.

The League published a news organ twice monthly. It was composed and written in long hand by some member or members of the society and was inclosed in a cardboard neatly tied with ribbon. Upon the front was the name of the League, our village, date of issue and the name of the editors. There are several copies of this publication in the files of the library which are in perfect condition and are very interesting.

It was voted that the League solicit books from the community in order to be able to start the library. Col. I. C. Moore presented

the first book, "The Universe," whereupon he was made an honorary member of the society. From the News I quote, "It became the nucleus around which has been gathered volume after volume until today we have a respectable collection of books."

During the latter days of the League's existence it was housed in a large room on the second floor of the old "Central House," the first building south of the John D. Birney building now occupied by the Vaughn Co., and was known as the "Philorhetorian Hall."

When the school house burned in 1885, the eighth grade, in which the writer was a student, was housed there, Miss Minnie McKee being the teacher.

This League gave birth to the present library and at its termination a bronze plaque was made (now located in the library) as a memorial for its many accomplishments.

The Plaque:

IN MEMORIAM
Philorhetorian League
"Per Aspera Ad Astra"
Organized Feb. 28, 1876

The Literary Society Which First Established
A Library In Eaton Rapids, Mainly Influenced The
Establishment Of The Public Library, And From Its
Treasury Purchased Many Of These Bookcases.

The new library was functioning nicely. The Board of Directors appointed by Mayor H. H. Hamilton (consisting of John M. Corbin, Kendall Kittridge, Rev. D. Payson Breed, H. F. Reynolds, Henry A. Shaw, Joseph Carr, E. C. Osborn, Rev. Henry L. Field and Orr Schurtz) had organized and entered upon their duties.

There is no record as to where the library was located, but to the earliest knowledge of the writer it was conducted by A. Harwood who operated his news room in the building now owned by the Grange. At first a fee of five cents a week was charged for the use of books, but later the fee was discontinued.

In September, 1899, a store building was bought (now the south store of Foster and Gibson) and the books were removed

to the new room. Miss Florence Harris was appointed librarian and the Dewey system of cataloging was adopted.

In 1934, at the time the city became owners of the Michigan State Bank Building (now the Municipal block), the library was moved to the front office formerly occupied by the bank. The following persons have served as librarians: the Misses Jeanette Hosler, Bessie Hyde, Gertrude Hobart, and the present incumbent, Miss Winifred Brown.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS FROM THIS CITY AND LOCALITY HAVE SERVED IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE

House of Representatives

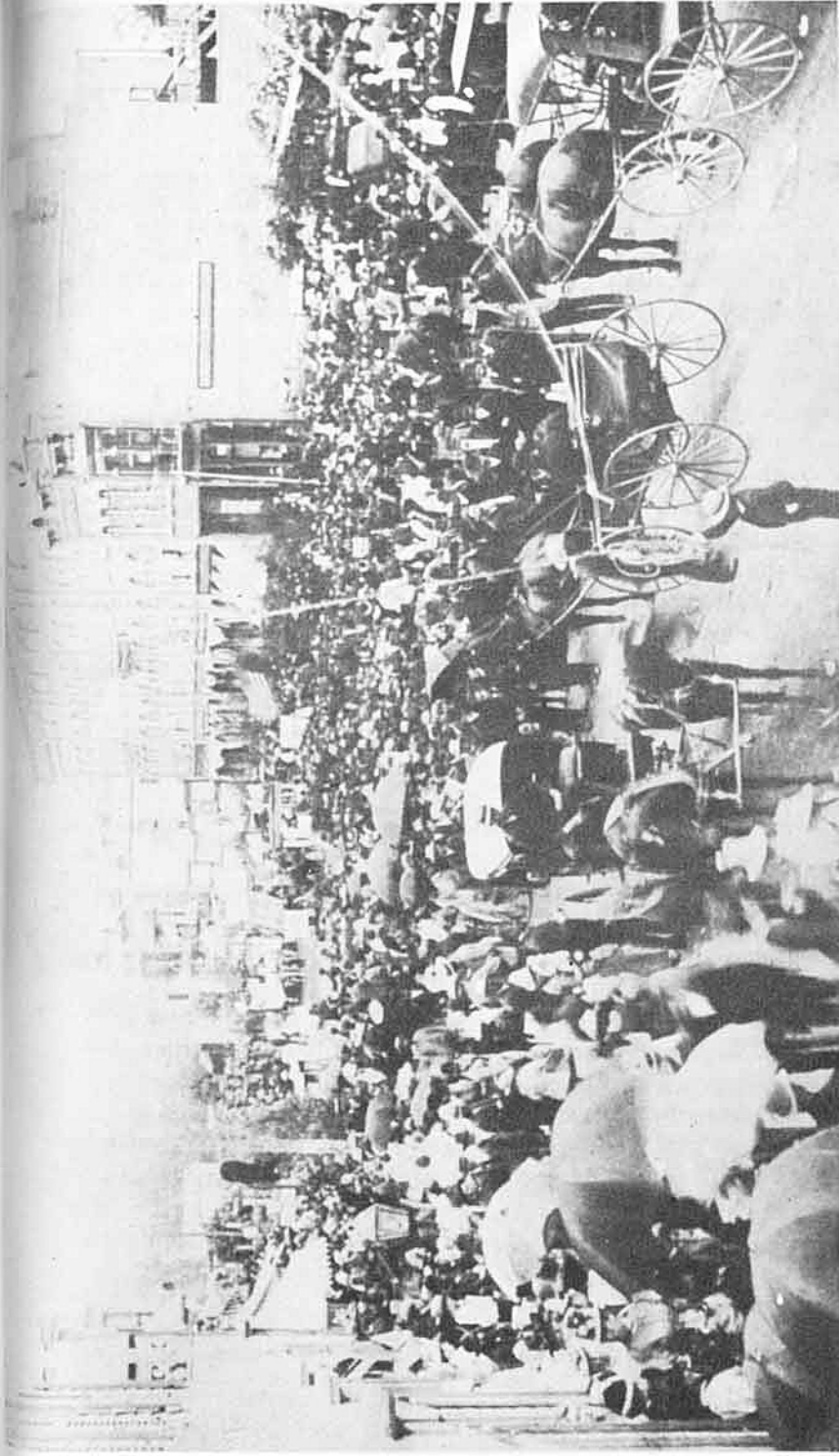
John M. French, Eaton and Ingham Counties.....	1842
Benjamin Knight, Eaton and Ingham Counties.....	1844
John Montgomery, Eaton County.....	1850
Chester C. Chatfield, Eaton County.....	1855
Henry A. Shaw, Eaton County First District.....	1857-58-59-73-74
Speaker of the House in 1859	
George Y. Cowan, Eaton County First District.....	1863-64
William M. Tompkins, Eaton County First District.....	1867
Martin V. Montgomery, Eaton County First District.....	1871-72
David B. Hale, Eaton County First District.....	1875
Samuel M. Wilkins, Eaton County First District.....	1879-81-82
Walter W. Williams, Eaton County First District.....	1887-89
Samuel Miller, Eaton County First District.....	1891-92
Will E. Hale, Eaton County First District.....	1909-11
G. Elmer McArthur, Eaton County.....	1917-18
John B. Davidson, Eaton County.....	1929-30

Senators

William Miller, 11th District.....	1891-92
Samuel M. Wilkins, 15th District.....	1893
G. Elmer McArthur, 15th District.....	1921-22
John B. Davidson, 15th District.....	1931-32



The Eaton Rapids Fire Department in 1874, composed of business and professional men, all volunteers.



Fourth of July street scene about 1892

THE SARATOGA OF THE WEST ITS WELLS AND HOTELS

Fortune has smiled on the writer for he is in possession of a Gazetteer and Directory, from which he will quote freely, of our little village in its "hey-day." It was compiled and published in 1872 by C. Exera Brown of East Saginaw.

The book contains excerpts from the Eaton Rapids Saturday Journal, Jackson Daily Patriot and other sources, and as for truth of the articles the writer will gladly vouch for them, as he has heard the facts many times from the older generation. With our five industries we were making rapid strides toward being one of the leading industrial places in Central Michigan.

"Eaton Rapid's location is ideal. The giant oaks are in abundance in many sections of the village and the beautiful soft maples, whose very existence is largely due to the diligent care exercised by the home owners, line the well-defined, well-kept streets that, in connection with the neatly trimmed lawns and newly painted houses, present a picture pleasing to the eye and thoroughly demonstrate that nature is doing its part in upholding the dignity the village enjoys and the name it has so justly inherited." (The Saratoga of the West).

"It is the center of a rich agricultural community whose farmers are progressive and thrifty. By means of the Grand River Valley Railroad an outside market has been made available for their products."

"About this time (1864) the ravages of fire over-came those living in the most settled portion until, for the first time, hope and her bright prospects were all blighted and prostrate, and woe and regrets hung heavily over the countenances of her people. It is said that out of some fifteen business houses only one or two were saved from the great conflagration. This fire was as much to them as the late fire at Chicago, if not greater, for reason that there were no cheering words to come by telegraph, no

railroads to bring assistance, to make up whole or in part, in those days as in 1871. With all this, people did not despair, but with renewed energy again took hold and after hard toiling accumulated a handsome reward."

In an early number of the Charlotte Leader was a long article on the business prosperity and artistic beauty of Eaton Rapids, and the taste displayed by its citizens. From the article we clip the following extract: *"There is a large amount of building done in the village, and still more in contemplation. Fine residences, neat dwelling houses, substantial brick stores, etc., are being rapidly built. Among those already up, we notice a far larger number of beautifully arranged and ornamented yards than can be found in our own city. There are also more nice dwelling houses than Charlotte can show."*

Says a correspondent of the Detroit Journal of Commerce, writing of Eaton Rapids: *"A short ride of twenty miles from Jackson, over the Grand River Valley Railroad, past Rives Junction and through the little village of Onondaga, brings us to Eaton Rapids in Eaton County. Not the county seat—yet it ought to be, if live men, men of enterprise and men of sterling worth are in the balance against mere geographical advantages. There are few towns in the state, if my judgment is taken for aught, that promise more for the future development of our Commonwealth than Eaton Rapids. Neither flat nor hilly, but of gentle undulating type, where nature has seemed to vie with art, and as usual has outdone the works of man."*

There is no record available that gives the exact year the original or north portion of the Frost House was built, but the writer, in comparing different historical events, believes it was in 1844. It is known that it was erected by E. B. Frost whose name it bore. The south portion of the same building was constructed in 1852 and occupied by Mr. Frost with a stock of dry goods. Mr. T. W. Daniels managed the store until 1860 when he became a partner. In 1869 the Frost House well was sunk in the curb to the south of the hotel for a greater convenience in obtaining a water supply and in a short time it was discovered that the water from the well was both magnetic and possessed of medicinal virtues, several persons being benefited by its use. This at

once created an excitement and appeared to open a way to the future prosperity of the proprietor. Mr. Frost retired from the firm in 1870 and the entire building was then opened as a hotel and bathing establishment. Mr. Daniels bought his partner's interest in the dry goods store and moved to another location.

In Eaton Rapids as in all growing villages several different improvements were promulgated which possessed more or less value to the community as a whole. Many persons bought stock in the Plank Road project, the Ramshorn Railroad and the Grand River Valley Railroad by which Eaton Rapids was benefited to some extent but not as much as anticipated.

According to a report by Johnson Montgomery a transaction took place which had an important bearing on the future development of a sanitarium.

Quote: "Soon after Mr. Frost discovered the artesian water, it was soon ascertained that a more commodious hotel was necessary for the entertainment of strangers. A stock company was formed, the capital stock being \$25,000.00. After that was subscribed they raised the stock to \$100,000.00, thereby destroying the value of the shares so all those that had invested lost a greater portion of their stock."

E. W. Barnes became proprietor of the hotel on July 1, 1871.

Whether Mr. Frost or Mr. Barnes manipulated the stock deal no one seems to know.

The second well was sunk at the Eaton Rapids House by James Mosher, the proprietor. It is located in the curb on West Hamlin St., opposite the entrance to the City Clerk's office. The city watering trough for all animals was located at that point.

The third well was sunk by Hon. Henry A. Shaw and bore his name. This well was in the curb and opposite and across the street on a direct east and west line from the Frost well. Its depth was 162 feet.

The fourth well was sunk by David Stirling at a depth of 184 feet. It is located on the Federal building site (Post Office) and is about twenty feet east of the drinking fountain. Mr. Stirling erected a hotel and spring house where he gave baths. He was the only one to commercialize on the water. One of his advertisements follows:

Quote: "This magnetic property, together with mineral combination, makes a sure remedy for rheumatism, catarrh, dropsy, piles, scrofula, and general debility."

"It regulates the bowels, cleanses the blood, imparts life and vitality to the digestive organs and invigorates the whole nervous system."

"This water should be kept from the light till used. Drink at a temperature about 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Invalids should not drink to exceed one quart per day in divided doses. Show the analysis to your physician who is acquainted with your individual case and ask his advice. This water is bottled only at the spring. Each bottle which is dark brown in color, has the name 'Stirling's Magnetic Mineral Spring, Eaton Rapids, Michigan' blown in the glass. The label and sealing wax must both bear our trade-mark. No other genuine. Price delivered at the Grand River Valley Railroad depot, \$2.50 per case of 1 dozen quarts; \$4.00 per case of 2 dozen pints."

The fifth well, which was sunk at the Central House by S. W. Bordine, was conceded to be superior to them all. This is the well that is connected with the stone drinking fountain which was erected by the late Charles S. Horner. The well is about fifteen feet north of the fountain. The Central House was opened in 1870 and was the building located adjacent to and south of the John D. Birney building (occupied by the Vaughn store). Referring to the Directory, "S. W. Bordine, Clerk for Charles W. Vail and boards at the Central House."

The sixth well was sunk by James E. Smith. (It was known as the Waldron well). It was located in the 800 block on South Main Street between the G. H. Esch and Glen Holcomb residences and is about twenty feet west of the walk.

Joshua S. Slayton sank the seventh well and it was operated in connection with the Slayton House which is occupied by the PX War Surplus Store. On the south side of the building was a stairway leading to the second floor of the hotel and under this stairway the well was located. There was a four-foot alley between this building and the one adjacent to it on the south where Gary Brothers (Vern and Ed) conducted a meat market. They acquired the alley and closed it up, plugged the well and moved

their north wall flush with the south wall of the Slayton building.

The eighth well was sunk by Lyman Bentley and was located about twenty feet north of the intersection of Michigan and Canal Streets.

The ninth well was at the home of Aaron Mest and is now the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Effie Mendell, in the 200 block on the north side of East Knight street.

The Montgomery House was opened in 1870 and located on the present site of the National Bank of Eaton Rapids. When it was purchased by W. H. Dodge in 1872 it naturally assumed his name. He sank the tenth well on the adjacent lot across the alley and it was given the name of Arcana.

The Anderson House, an elegant four-story brick hotel with full basement (dimensions 50' by 140') was built in 1874 by Mr. Dodge; \$3000.00 had been raised by Major George M. Anderson and the hotel was named for him. Upon the erection of the hotel the Dodge House was moved across the alley and is now the hotel and sanitarium operated by Dr. Edward G. Grandy. As the Arcana well is the only one used commercially at this time the analysis of the water is given.

ANALYSIS OF WATER

Made by Prof. Delos Fall of Albion College

December 1, 1902

The New Arcana Magnetic Mineral Springs Water shows the following analysis:

	GRAINS PER GALLON
Silica871
Oxide of Iron	5.13
Calcium Carbonate	3.706
Calcium Sulphate	22.562
Magnesium Sulphate	15.218
Sodium Sulphate	35.410
Sodium Chloride	734
Free Ammonia0056
Albuminoid Ammonia00385
Phosphoric Anhydride, Heavy Trace Loss.....	15.96

DELOS FALL, *Chemist*

J. W. Toles built a rooming house and sank the eleventh well located about fifteen feet from the side walk and midway between the Toles House, now the home of Miss Helen Stirling, and the late Dr. Wilson Canfield residence.

H. B. Marvin sank the twelfth well on the north side of Spicer Street half way between South Main Street and the west alley about ten feet from the side walk. The residence on this property was the home of Ex-Governor Blair and family in 1842 while he held the office of County Clerk. When Mr. Smith built his garage and home it was moved across the alley and faces Spicer Street. This house is one of the old land marks.

The Horner well was sunk in 1900 and the Island Park well in 1911.

The Smith, Bentley, Mest, Toles and Marvin wells were all residential and have been dry for many years.

The reader may get the impression that these wells are all gushers like an oil well, but that is fantastic. The writer is speaking of the wells sunk at that time, and will to the best of his ability tell of their construction and how they operate. (This is the method of procedure in constructing the Frost House well and I presume all others were the same.)

A two and a half inch pipe was sunk 160 feet and the water rose to within a few feet of the surface. Whether the following procedure was regular or some one's brilliant idea no one will ever know, yet it worked to perfection. A small burlap bag, doubled in thickness, was made like a life-saver, filled with flaxseed, and wired securely around a one and a quarter inch pipe about two feet from the end. Both pipes were the same length. The larger pipe was lowered first and then the smaller one was placed inside of it. Flaxseed coming in contact with water always swells and this action took place. The seed bag was inflated to such an extent that the water could not get past it or, in other words, between the two pipes so naturally the water came up through the smaller pipe which caused the flowing well. Now this is no idle rumor. This well ceased flowing about 1910 and the pipes were pulled. The writer happened to be a bystander when this was done and saw the seed-bag when it was taken from the well. It was still attached to the inner pipe but had de

teriorated and broken open by the constant exposure to the iron in the water and the flax-seed was not in evidence. A bag made of whang-leather was used to inclose the flaxseed when it was repaired. An improved method is now used that accomplishes the same results. When this well was sunk the second time it hit the same vein as the Shaw well which it dried up. No effort was ever made to restore it.

The Knowles House was built in 1871 by Porter Knowles who operated it for many years until he moved to Hastings. It is the office and home of the late Ara Wellon.

The popularity of our little village, caused by the curative properties of the mineral water, brought hundreds here for treatment. Every available space in our hotels and rooming houses was taken, people opened their homes to the visitors, and even cots in a hallway for a night's lodging were at a premium. To relieve this situation a stock company was formed in 1871 to build a hotel. It consisted of Morgan Vaughan, Alanson Osborn, Philip Leonard, I. M. Crane, H. B. Marvin, and James L. Holmes; \$100,000.00 in stock was subscribed and Major George M. Anderson was a dominant factor in the financing of it. The hotel was named "The Vaughan House" and was located on the north-west corner of North Main and West Knight Streets. Its dimensions were 81 by 136 feet; it was built of brick, three stories high with a full basement. It consisted of 125 rooms. The office was 21 by 56 feet, a reception room 19 by 21 feet, dining room 32 by 51 feet; on the second floor was a fine front parlor, 28 by 36 feet. The rooms were all well-furnished and well-ventilated in summer and winter. The entire house was supplied with water from an artesian flowing well.

("The close proximity of the Shaw well to the Hotel caused it to be referred to as the "Vaughan House Well.")

The plan of this house was designed by Eliab Dunbar, a local architect, who also superintended its construction. (His home was the late T. B. True residence.)

One of the foremost men of this period was Morgan Vaughan who operated his own private bank. He was a very generous man, contributed liberally to the poor, was civic-minded and worked

for the betterment of the village and its citizens. He was one of the promoters that organized the Stock Company that built the Vaughan House, was named the president of the company by the stockholders and the hotel was named for him. About this time his bank failed and the village was thrown into a state of confusion. The Vaughan House burned, probably by arson method, yet the blame was never centered on any one person. He suffered the threats and humiliation thrust upon him by the depositors who were slightly reimbursed for the money they had deposited in the bank. Many thought the closing was voluntary on his part while others believed he had invested heavily in the Vaughan House and there was not enough insurance on the building at the time it was burned to anywhere nearly reimburse the stockholders for their investment. He went to Canada shortly afterwards and entered business, but this was cut short by his demise. His remains were brought here for burial in Rosehill but he was a forgotten man—practically an outcast. Too true, the people overlook the good a person has done, but one false step and he is placed on the black list forever. During his absence the family, consisting of the wife, son Walter and daughter Lena, lived in their beautiful home built in 1869, located on the corner of West Plain and Hall Streets. (Now the residence of Mrs. Lucile Goff).

From the Eaton Rapids Saturday Journal—I quote: "The Grand River Valley Railroad purchased land adjoining the depot grounds and erected a commodious depot, a warehouse and a grain elevator costing upwards of \$25,000.00." (We had the nicest depot on the line between Jackson and Grand Rapids and were the envy of other villages on the road for many years.)

An attractive feature at this time was the J. D. McAuliffe's Island Park or Museum. There was a pyramid-shaped refreshment stand at the entrance as you crossed over the bridge to the park. (This was moved to the Whittum orchards on the Dimondale road but has been destroyed.) Underneath the beautiful trees were arbors, a dancing platform and all kinds of entertainment facilities for both young and old. Another attraction was the zoo that contained many wild and tame animals. The Island was much larger than it is now, extending between 40 and 50 feet to the south, and the north point nearly to the East Knight

Street bridge. Around the border of the Island was a carriage drive and walk of nearly three-fourths of a mile in length.

In 1875 Dr. Morris Hale came to the village and after running the Anderson House one year, became the manager of the Frost House. He established a water cure or Sanitarium and won such renown for his treatments that his patients numbered several hundred annually, coming from all quarters of the United States.

Dr. Hale was born in Columbia County, Ohio, in 1838, was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1864 and the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1870. He entered the Army in 1865 and served as assistant surgeon at Rock Island Barracks in Illinois.

The Frost House burned in the winter of 1885 and was never rebuilt. This nearly spelled our death-knell.

Dr. Hale went to his friends and asked them to raise \$10,000 with which he would build a new Sanitarium, assuring them that no one would ever lose a penny and he would stake his reputation on it. Doubtless some of them got "sucked in" on the sale of stock some fifteen years previous and would not take another chance. Here is where the citizens of Eaton Rapids made a grave mistake. They turned down the "goose" that would have laid for them a "golden egg."

Dr. Hale was an honorable gentleman. They knew his background and he felt this rebuff keenly. He went to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he was very successful and after a few years operated a bath house of his own.

It is the honest opinion of the writer that had this loan been granted, all land lying north of East Knight Street and east of North Main Street would have been one mammoth Sanitarium with spacious grounds, beautifully landscaped, through which winding promenades would be dispersed to the river where a steamer would lie moored at its docks ready to take patrons of the hotel for a ride on the beautiful Grand, around the Island.

Dr. Hamburg Smith, lecturing before the New York Academy of Medicine on Mineral Waters said, "The Eaton Rapids water

is equal to any of them. To say that it will cure all disease to which flesh is heir would be making an assertion which facts would not justify. But rheumatism, both chronic and acute, paralysis, gravel, piles, kidney complaint, dyspepsia, sciatica, and many other nervous diseases of long standing have yielded to the power of these waters after other remedies have failed."

Prof. Winchell, the State Geologist, after investigating the curative and magnetic properties of the Eaton Rapids Mineral Springs, gave his idea in a paper and in part I quote: "My impression is, that nature has superceded art in establishing an electric current by the underground water course, flowing over immense minerals in the northern part of the State carrying with it, not only the permanent tonic, iron, but various salts of sodium, lime, potash, etc., in solution. Thousands of invalids are anxious and willing to testify to the benefits received from the use of this mineral water. Unlike the world renowned Saratoga Springs, it does not cost a fortune to try their virtues."

The Press says: "A writer of the Coldwater Republican gives his opinion of Eaton Rapids mineral water—Eaton Rapids is a place containing 2500 inhabitants exclusive of invalids, which would increase the population from 2000 to 3000."

In the Jackson Daily Patriot: "Since the discovery of the first mineral well there has been a great change in the village of Eaton Rapids; the place has nearly doubled in population."

Some cures: "*A three-year old child, son of J. H. Wunderly, a wealthy and prominent citizen of Grand Rapids was brought here badly affected with paralysis. In two months he was considered cured and taken home.*"

"*Dr. Bemis of Clyde, Ohio—rheumatism in right shoulder. One treatment. Cured.*"

"*Captain Moore, Chelsea, Mass.—Came to Eaton Rapids on crutches afflicted with rheumatism. One week walking with cane.*"

"*Daniel Heller, Fremont, Ind., afflicted with rheumatism of months standing. Cured in one month.*"

"*E. Washburn of St. Louis, Mo., had been suffering with neuralgia for years, was entirely cured in one month by using the water.*"

"*Lieut. Williams, of the regular army, who had lost his speech*

for six months. In one month he had entirely recovered his speech."

During that period there were thousands of such testimonials.

I hope all skeptics will digest the above article thoroughly. The present generation look upon the "old timers" as dreamers. To reminisce is their principal stock in trade and the cob-webs that have accumulated in their brains for years have coagulated to the extent that their minds wander and the utterances they expound are exaggerated to a large degree. These so called "old timers" are quoting the findings of leading scientists of that period; millions of dollars of this health-restoring water is running to waste annually.

Have we as a people overlooked one of the greatest opportunities and advantages that was ever bestowed upon any place?

I am afraid we have. Gentle reader—think it over.

W. A. MORGAN

A Wolf In Sheep's Clothing

In the mad rush for health during the mineral water boom, there were hundreds of persons arriving here weekly in search of relief for their different ailments. Their first objective was "Where can we obtain a nice room or apartment?"—Next, "Procure the best food?", and lastly, "When will my course of treatment baths begin?"

The reader will wonder why there was so much confusion with all of the hotels, rooming and boarding houses available. Our little village had about 1800 inhabitants and with a floating population of nearly 3000 persons, you can readily see that there would be some congestion. Anyone who had any available space for an extra bed or even a cot in a hall was "full up." It cost a dollar fare from the depots to the hotels. Five dollars was charged for the transfer from one depot to the other. Everybody was "money crazy;" the "rusty lucre" seemed almost as prevalent as dandelion blossoms on a sunny May morning, so the addition of one person to the vast throng would practically go unnoticed.

In the 1880's a gentleman alighted from a brougham at the Anderson House, registered under the name of W. A. Morgan, and asked that his baggage be taken to his suite. He was clad

in the latest fashion, linen immaculate, and presented the appearance of another person of means who had come to obtain some benefit from the use of the highly praised and sparkling mineral waters. All of these characteristics would not arouse the suspicion of anyone as the village was full of persons of that calibre. His first move was to deposit money in the bank in order to establish his credit. From the list of business men who became his associates he must have fallen into their good graces, for he was entertained in their different homes and returned the favors with lavish banquets and gradually became a prime favorite with the belles of the town. He solicited friends and became acquainted with the first families in nearby villages.

On Christmas Eve a Grand Ball was sponsored by him at the Red Ribbon Hall, with supper at the Morgan House. It was a gala affair and the event of the season. A short time after this he was called West on a business trip (probably to secure more funds to replenish his rapidly depleting bank account). He stated that he would return shortly, but that was the last time he was seen in these parts. Not long after his departure there was a holdup in the Western States and the description of the bandit tallied with that of our newly-acquired citizen.

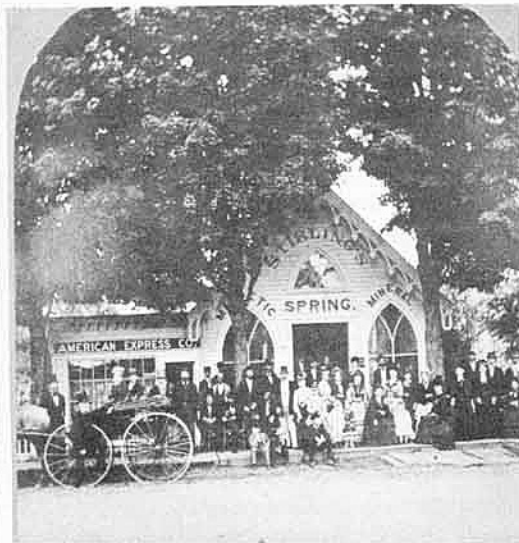
Again our people had fallen victim to the wiles of a polished gentleman, for there was no doubt in the minds of many who were associates of his during his sojourn here that the train robber who was foiled in his attempt to rob the mail was W. A. Morgan, cloaking under an alias.

THE PEANUT VENDOR

Another familiar character in our village during the "boom days" was "Uncle Billie" Henderson.

He was one of the early settlers in Brookfield township. The son, Charles T. Henderson, shared the labors on the farm with his father continuously for many years with the exception of the three years he was called to the colors, serving in Company E, 20th Michigan Infantry.

"Uncle Billie" couldn't be contented without something to occupy his mind during his declining years, so at intervals he sold peanuts at the Eaton County Fair in Charlotte and in other thriving villages.



UPPER LEFT: Vaughn House, most elaborate of the hotels catering to the crowds of the mineral water boom days.

UPPER RIGHT: Anderson House, burned in a spectacular fire in 1911.

LOWER LEFT: Stirling Spring House, popular gathering place of the 1870's.

LOWER RIGHT: Wheat market scene about 1870.

UPPER: Eaton Rapids House with hacks which met the trains bringing hundreds to Eaton Rapids for mineral water treatment.

LOWER: Stirling House, another busy hostelry of the mineral water boom days.

INDUSTRIES

THE OLD RED MILL

Flour Mill

This was the first industry built in the village by the Mill Company, located at the foot of the first race. It started running in January, 1838, and ground grain for the people in this vicinity for a period of forty-four years, although during the interim a mill was built by Matt Jarbo in Petrieville and another by the Spicers in Spicerville.

Patrick Gallery was the first miller, followed by his son James Gallery, who held the position for a year, when he resigned and was succeeded by his brother William, who operated it until 1845.

From here there is a discrepancy of about ten years, when it appears from a sign on an office building that E. B. Frost of Albion, Michigan, purchased the power and mill. It was in charge of his brother, Oscar M. Frost.

In 1878, I. P. Roberts of New York State purchased the plant, but it was razed in 1882 when the new mill was built. Millers at different times were John and William West and William Otto.

In 1887 Mr. Roberts traded the mill property for a store and other real estate in Springport to Almeron Montgomery, who sold it five years later to Irish and Dillinger from out of the state. (Ila Dillinger became the wife of Edwy K. Shaw).

Mr. Roberts established a bank in Springport, which bore his name, "The I. P. Roberts Banking House," and William West also moved to Springport and became connected with the grist mill at that place. Later, he and his son Rollo produced the Oxidermo Paint which they manufactured for many years, a business now owned by Karl Sorick and his son Douglas.

In 1893, H. P. Webster bought the mill property and his brother, George W. Webster, and son Claude operated it for two

years when Quincey A. Hughes, from Middleville, leased the mill and conducted it for several years. He was succeeded by M. Sherk & Son.

In 1904, the property was sold to Strong and Mix but the partnership was dissolved in 1910, Mr. Mix continuing the business.

In 1920, a co-partnership was formed between Mr. Mix and L. J. Smith, owner of the Smithville water power. J. Earnest Crane and Amaziah Crane, brothers, became members of the firm.

Marcus J. Boody operated the mill from 1920 to 1934, when it was leased to Tom Fox whose term expired in 1936, at which time both water powers were sold to Miller's Dairy Farms. The mill building was sold to Horner Woolen Mills Company at that time, and is now their sales room.

The Miller's Ice Cream store on North Main Street was formerly a feed mill and was operated in connection with the grist mill. It was in this mill that Marcus J. Boody lost his hand on December 19, 1902. Mr. Boody says modern surgery as administered today would have saved his hand and thumb.

The Welsh-Hughes dynamo that furnished current for commercial lighting in the city was housed in this building during the brief existence of their contract.

THE CADWELL SAW MILL

This mill had its origin in Brookfield township and was founded by three farmers that owned adjacent farms, the trio being Horace C. Whittum, Horace Cadwell and John Rank. The two former settlers received their grants in Section 10 and the latter in Section 9, the mill being located in Section 10.

Mrs. Harrie Whittum, a granddaughter by marriage, furnished the writer the data relative to the pioneering of Horace C. Whittum and Mrs. Laura Cadwell-Hyde, a granddaughter of Horace Cadwell.

Horace C. Whittum, a native of Phelps, New York, a laborer in the limestone quarries, had massed his meager savings of \$250, traveled by canal boat to Buffalo, lake boat to Toledo and then on foot through the forest to Brookfield township where he

located a parcel of land. This was in 1836, and of the forty-one persons who purchased tracts that year only seven became settlers, the balance being termed "land grabbers." He then walked to Ionia and found the land office would be closed for two months. He and a companion on the same errand took a job of freighting twenty-five barrels of flour to Grand Rapids; they cut trees and built a raft on which they poled their way with the cargo down Grand River to their destination, after which they returned to Ionia on foot and made their land entries.

On his way back to Toledo, again on foot, he met an Indian near Jackson who was going to Toledo. He determined to keep up with the Indian who traveled the trail so much faster than a white man was accustomed to, but he appreciated the advantage of having an Indian as a guide and managed to keep within sight of him all the way until they reached their destination.

He did not settle here until 1861, when he returned with his family, which consisted of his wife and eight children. The family grew to maturity here, receiving their tutoring in the Fox district school. He built a home in this city in the late '70's where he lived at the time of his death.

Mr. Whittum was a very quiet man, yet of keen judgment. While a resident of Brookfield township, he held the office of supervisor and treasurer for several terms and was one of the influential men in the township.

Next of kin that are living are: his grandson, Carl and children, Horace and Bethel Kikendall of Eaton Rapids; grandson Erwin of Jackson and grandchildren, Mrs. Florence Orloff of Detroit; and Fred Whittum of Niagara Falls, N. Y. and great-grandchild, Mrs. Charlene Wright of Eaton Rapids.

Horace Cadwell, also of Phelps, New York, located in Brookfield township with his family in 1847. He followed farming exclusively until his death. His son, Orason M. Caldwell, formed a partnership with Horace C. Whittum and John Rank and erected a saw mill on the Cadwell property. This they operated until the late '70's when they moved it to this city and located it on the south side of West Broad Street just west of West Street. In 1880, Mr. McCullough purchased the Whittum and

Rank holdings, the firm being Cadwell and McCullough. In 1885, the Cadwells became owners of the plant, an interest being acquired by the only son, Edwin B. Cadwell. In 1890 the mill was purchased by a Mr. Smith, who operated it two years when he sold it to J. F. H. Miller of Battle Creek, who conducted the plant up to the time of his death in 1895. His son Frank took it over and carried on the business for a brief period. At this time portable sawmills became accessible, so that a farmer could have his logs sawed and lumber piled on his own property and thus eliminate duplicate handling of the material. The machinery was sold and the building razed.

E. B. Cadwell was a resident of Detroit but was induced to go to New York City in 1898 by Elbert H. Gary, who was president of the United States Steel Corporation. About 1902, Mr. Cadwell organized the Standard Screw Company and became Executive Vice-President of the company and shortly after returned to Detroit where he managed the plant.

Mr. Cadwell was a very clever person; he had several concerns in Detroit and Chicago, manufacturing fuses for the Allies during World War I. At the close of the war he was manufacturing 85 percent of all fuses used by the Allies. This endeavor practically broke him, as the market for copper and brass dropped out of sight over night at the signing of the Armistice and he was left "holding the bag."

This did not daunt him; he made a success as a broker in Detroit, was connected with a firm manufacturing caterpillar tractors in Wisconsin, and was interested in British Columbia timber on Vancouver Island and also on the British Columbia mainland. He took up his residence again in New York state in 1926, purchased a large farm on the Hudson to which he gave the name "Shagbark," on account of there being so many hickory nut trees of that variety located there. He acquired a large herd of thoroughbred cattle and operated a dairy farm. The heavy snowfall in New York State inspired him to invent a Rotary Snow Plow, and to form a corporation that patented, manufactured and placed on the market the first machine of this type. This product brought him a fine fortune.

Horace Cadwell, the pioneer, was one of the finest gentlemen to take up residence in Brookfield township; he was a devoted Christian and there being no church within several miles of those early settlers, he conducted church services and Sunday School in the Fox school house for some time.

Next of kin of the Cadwell family living: Laura Cadwell-Hyde and her children, Harold of Detroit, Mrs. Laura Williams of Grosse Pointe and Mrs. Martha Nichols, of Amber, Pa.

John Rank was born in Germany in 1826 and came here in the early '50's with his wife and oldest daughter, Libbie, and took up a farm in Section 9, Brookfield township.

While farming was his vocation he was affiliated with those that built the saw mill in that vicinity and when the mill was moved to this city, he came and erected a home on the corner of West Plain and West Streets where he lived at the time of his death.

Next of kin that are living: Libbie Rank-Pratt's children, Vern and Mamie Schuler of Battle Creek and Erma Allen of Kalamazoo; Frank's grandson, Carl of Battle Creek; Edward's children, Erma Weeks, Howard and his children, Walter and Erma Parker all of San Jose, Calif. Amelia Rank-Wood's children, Edward of Detroit and Jennie Radcliff of Eaton Rapids; Fred's daughter, Gladys Mullens of Los Angeles, Calif.

Julius F. H. Miller was born in Lewiston, New York, in 1822 where he received his early education, finishing a course at Lockport Academy that fitted him for the position of Commissioner of Schools, which he successfully performed in Niagara County for a number of years.

He came to Michigan in 1882 and located on a farm west of Battle Creek (it is now included in the Fort Custer tract) which he operated until the family moved here in 1891. The Millers were a fine addition to the city, staunch members and supporters of the Congregational Church. Heileman, the only member of the family residing here, is a deacon of the church and is serving as Mayor of the city at the present time.

Next of kin that are living: Heileman of Eaton Rapids; Jennie Miller-Arkley and her children, Jack M., H. O., Adeline, all

of Vancouver; Sterley of Seattle, Wash.; Clara Miller-Palmer and her children, Mesdames Louise Farr, Zena McMurg, Mary Lukenain, all of Berkley, Calif., and Coburn of Palo Alto, Calif.; Bertha Miller-Southworth's children, Don of Bellevue, Mrs. Sarah Kimball of Lake Orion, Mesdames Mary Fenn and Bertha Sederlund, both of Charlotte; Louise Miller-Haddrill's children, Mrs. Mary Terrill of Alexandria, Va. and Philip of Milford; Frank's daughter, Mrs. Margaret Bergston of Washington, D.C.

THE SAW MILL At Eaton Rapids

The Mill Company was composed of a very aggressive type of business men and when some addition was necessary in order to make their set-up more complete, they realized the situation, took time by the forelock and carried their ideas on to completion.

Their first venture was the grist mill in 1838. The south race was dug and the water therefrom turned the wheels of their initial enterprise for a period of forty-six years.

To the east the mighty Grand came roaring down over the riffles at a mad rate of speed and it seemed to say, "Sorry, but as you have no use for me I'll be on my way."

They realized the amount of power that was going to waste and hastened to correct the situation. The power dam was built and the race dug in 1842, and the water was converted through the race to Spring Brook and thereby made a large head water for any use they might desire.

They had harnessed the water power; now they were prepared to develop any enterprise of their own. It might attract the attention of some outside concerns seeking a good location with cheap water power.

The north race was dug in order to convey water to the wheels of any industry that might present itself.

The town was growing rapidly, but the only sawmill in the vicinity was located at Spicerville, from which building material had to be transported overland. In order to satisfy the needs of those locating here, in 1840 the Mill Company erected a saw mill at the extreme east end of the north race, in order to leave space for other concerns that might choose to build nearer the

center of population. The north division had just been platted and building there had become quite prevalent. This mill also served the citizens and the adjacent community for more than thirty years.

Henry A. Shaw, a Vermonter, had transported several hundred sheep into the area. The farmers bought as much of the flock as was available, and it was then necessary they have an output for their wool and also a way to prepare it for home consumption. Clinton was the only village having a mill of that nature, so the Mill Company realized the need of a carding mill here, and in 1844 one was built, and machinery installed for wool-carding and cloth dressing.

Farmers needed plows and all of the accessories. In 1846 Spencer and Davis erected a foundry and it was a blessing to those in agricultural pursuits.

Everyone needed furniture, and the same year Alanson Osborn, Sr., erected a cabinet shop at the head of the race and all made good use of the water to turn their wheels.

The erection of the saw mill served as a spark plug to industry, for within a period of four years, these plants were erected and played an important part in our development. One has stood the rigors of months, seasons, years—yes, over a century, and the blankets produced by Horner Woolen Mills Company have been flung to the breezes in all parts of the world.

THE HORNER WOOLEN MILLS

The mill was purchased in 1846 by John and William Gallery, brothers and son of Patrick Gallery. They operated it together until the death of John, when the property was taken over by William and remained in the Gallery family until it was purchased by Samuel Horner.

Mr. Horner was born in Yorkshire, England. He was a professional spinner and an all-round mill hand. He came to this country in the early '50's, settling in Amsbury, Massachusetts, where he became affiliated with the woolen mills.

Elizabeth Inis Atchinson was born in Edinborough, Scotland. She was a very proficient weaver of Paisley shawls and a portion of the Jacquard loom upon which she did her operating is a

cherished heirloom of the family and can be seen at the plant; she also immigrated to this country in the '50's, and became a resident of Amsbury and was employed in the same woolen mill as Mr. Samuel Horner. A courtship ensued and they were married in 1855. Jennie, Charles and Edward were all born in Amsbury.

The family moved to Lawrence, Kansas, in 1867 and located on a farm where William was born. Two years later they moved to Liberty, Missouri, where they continued to farm. In 1872 the family took up their residence in Troy, Ohio, where Mr. Horner leased a woolen mill. In March, 1880, they purchased the Gallery Woolen Mill and they have resided here since.

The only machine in operation at that time was one that manufactured rolls which were spun into yarn by farmers' wives on the old hand spinning wheel; this yarn was used in knitting socks, scarfs and other household necessities.

For the first few years the entire family did all the work, the daughter Jennie keeping the books, and the record is a prized possession that shows transactions of items at twenty-five and fifty cents. Will was a student in the local schools, graduating in 1888.

In 1883, carding, spinning, weaving and finishing machinery was installed and in 1885 they manufactured their first cloth and blankets. In 1887 they secured the contract for the uniforms of the Vocational School in Lansing.

None of the boys had the privilege of a college education but were great readers of the different mechanical journals that furnished them a general background that led to their ultimate success. Ed took the contract to install the electric power lines for the opening of the first electric street cars in Grand Rapids and Elkhart, Indiana, shortly after he had reached his majority. In 1888 the Horners installed a dynamo and had a contract to light Eaton Rapids, the Thompson-Houston Carbon Arc Light system being used.

Charley was the mechanical genius of the boys and many of the machines used in the mills were of his own design. Ed contacted the trade and Will was supervisor of the mill. It is

known that Will is one of the best graders of wool in these parts.

In 1900 the boys broke ground for the new mill. By consistent effort, stellar management, and their ability to please the public with their superior quality of merchandise they made their establishment one of the leading woolen mills in the United States.

The entire production of the Mill up until World War I was woolen yarns of various types and for various purposes. At that time the first knitting machines were installed for the purpose of manufacturing fabric for the puttees worn by the soldiers. This was their first government contract. They also spun khaki yarn in large quantities. Every morning an express car was placed on the Michigan Central Railroad siding and was filled with this yarn; that evening it was shipped to the American Red Cross in Chicago.

In World War II they produced a wide variety of products for the various branches of the armed forces including blankets and woven and knitted fabrics. One item of interest was the fact that a Naval officer from Jackson, Michigan, encountered a drifting life boat (from the S.S. City of Flint) in the South Atlantic and found a Horner blanket in the life boat. He removed the label and sent it to the firm.

They are now concentrating their production on the manufacturing of fabrics, blankets and yarns. For some years one of the principal products of the Mills has been automobile upholstery cloth, so that it could be said without exaggeration that in every country in the world where automobiles are driven, fabrics from Eaton Rapids are in use. They are known from coast to coast as manufacturers of the finest hospital blankets obtainable, and are to be congratulated on their thousands of satisfied customers who are located in every state of our Union.

In competition against many of the large mills of the country the Horner folks received the contract for furnishing all the passenger blankets and steamer robes for the new United States Line steamship, the UNITED STATES. This is the largest, finest, and fastest vessel ever built in this country, and has accommodations for 2000 passengers. Its maiden voyage will be

made in July, 1952, from New York to Havre and Southampton. These blankets and robes are the highest quality soft, pure, virgin wool, dyed in shades to match the color motif of this beautiful new luxury liner. So the name of Eaton Rapids will be displayed to all the ship's passengers on their various crossings, through the medium of large silk labels which these blankets and robes will carry.

In 1918 they were incorporated as the Eaton Rapids Woolen Mills, and in 1937 were re-named the Horner Woolen Mills Company.

Charles passed on in 1925 and Edward in 1944.

The officers are: Richard G. Toncray, Chairman of the Board; Murray P. Stroud, President; William A. Horner, Vice-President; Frank B. Klopell, Vice-President; Arthur E. Littlefield, Vice-President; Wm. S. Horner, Secretary; and Richard H. Toncray, Treasurer.

THE JOHN B. DAVIDSON WOOLEN MILLS

John B. Davidson was born in Oldham, Yorkshire, England, March 17, 1876. He received his early education in the public schools, and was graduated from a private school. He was athletically inclined and an outstanding star at football while attending school. His services were sought and he became a member of England's Champion Rugby Football Team that traveled extensively and played in contests with the best teams in Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. On account of his deadly tackling, he was feared by his adversaries. In one contest the entire team was laying for Davidson and during the whole game a group of rooters were carrying a coffin up and down the sidelines to lay him out in, but he emerged from the game without a scratch and was escorted from the field under a body guard, so intense was the feeling of hatred toward him. It is said of him that during his career as a football star, time was never taken out for him.

Three of his four boys played on the local high school football team. In one contest his youngest son was knocked out. At the dinner table that evening the father spun the following yarn: "Sandy, I was surprised at you, quitting the game this afternoon.

I remember getting out of a jam pile in a contest and one of my ribs was broken and stuck outside of my jersey. I hung my cap on it and went right back into the game. Did I quit? Not me."

In 1922 a tri-county baseball league was formed (Eaton, Ingham, and Livingston Counties) and he was elected president. The following cities were represented in the league: Eaton Rapids, Mason, Leslie, Stockbridge, Munith, Fowlerville (Chas. Gehringer was a member of this team), Williamston, and Howell. This league enjoyed the distinction of furnishing pleasure for lovers of the sport for a couple of seasons.

When a young man, John Davidson was prone to adventure, and the wander-lust got the better of him. He worked his passage to Canada on a cattle boat several times, and for a brief period was employed by the Canadian Government as a detective on the docks at Montreal.

In 1903 he was married to Annie Murphy and came to this country the following year to visit his brother, William Davidson, of Philadelphia, one of the largest wool merchants in the United States. He became associated with the large John Wanamaker store where he remained several years. William G. Davidson, in calling on his trade, learned that Horner Brothers Woolen Mills were in search of a reliable person to enter their organization. Upon the recommendation of William G., John was contacted and an agreement was made and a contract signed between him and the Horner Brothers. He moved his family here in 1909.

As was his usual practice through life, he never entered upon any new subject without first becoming familiar with its operation. He spent several months in the various departments in the mill and became thoroughly conversant with the manufacture of yarn and the different articles in which it is used. In 1916 he was made superintendent of the mill, a position which he held until 1920, when he resigned. That summer he and his entire family visited his mother and other members of the family in England. During his absence, his secretary, Arthur C. Knowlton, sold a few shares of stock to his more intimate friends in his woolen mill to be known as the John B. Davidson Woolen Mill, which was built and started operation in 1921. They are spin-

ners of merino yarn and hold large contracts with several users of that product, but more especially the Reach Base Ball Manufacturing Company of Chicago. During World War II they had a contract with the United States Government to supply woolen caps and socks for the troops. They not only furnish these articles to the trade, but are supplying Sears Roebuck & Company and Montgomery Ward & Company with these commodities.

He was Mayor of the City for two terms and, in 1929, was elected to the House of Representatives in the State Legislature and in 1931-32 served this district in the State Senate.

He died on February 14, 1942, in Clearwater, Florida, where he and Mrs. Davidson were spending the winter.

The Mill is now operated by his four sons: Christopher, President; John G., Vice-President and Manager; William, Secretary and Treasurer; Alexander, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, and Manager of the mill. Annie, the daughter, is married to Alexander Allen and resides here.

THE MAUPIN WOOLEN MILLS

In August, 1908, Joel Edgar Maupin moved his family to this city from Hodgenville, Kentucky, where their home was about three miles from the birthplace of the Great Emancipator.

The father had the Michigan territory for the Hoge Montgomery Shoe Company of Frankfort, Kentucky. The children received their education in the Eaton Rapids schools. Kenneth, the founder of the Maupin Woolen Mills, graduated in 1914 and was a member of the celebrated football team of 1913. He was an energetic chap. The year after he moved here he secured employment in the Horner Brothers Woolen Mills, when it did not interfere with his school duties, and he became so thoroughly informed in the manufacture of woolen commodities that the firm sent him out on the road to call on the trade before he finished school. He continued in their employ until World War I when, in June, 1917, he enlisted in the 119th Field Artillery in the 32nd Division, Colonel McCormick commanding, and was honorably discharged in May, 1919. Two of his brothers, Hall and Layton, enlisted at this time in the same outfit.

Kenneth was a favorite of the late Charles S. Horner, senior member of the firm, who made a trip to France as soon as he was able to obtain a passport following the signing of the Armistice, his main object being to be with and entertain the Eaton Rapids boys, of whom there was nearly a score in the contingent. On his return, Kenneth again represented the Horners on the road until 1924, when he accepted a similar position with James Lee and Son, Yarn Manufacturers of Bridgeport, Pennsylvania.

The one thing uppermost in his mind was to start a business of his own and in November, 1926, the Maupin Woolen Mills was opened to the public. His first venture was a retail store specializing in yarn, yard goods and blankets. As a side line, he installed a wool bat machine and built up a fine business. As the years passed his business increased and his line extended to include jackets, mackinaws, socks and snow-suits. The firm is now specializing in the manufacture of insulated tarpaulin milk-can jackets and other types of shippers' supplies. Because of the excellent patronage he had from Lansing residents, he opened up a branch store in that city in December, 1942, when gasoline shortages developed, and the store is still in operation on account of its extreme popularity.

In the J. E. Maupin family there are living two brothers and a sister: Hall, of Monmoe; Cicero, of Charlotte; and Mrs. Helen Carter of Nashville, Tennessee. Kenneth Maupin died June 3, 1951.

Those in Kenneth's family that are living are the wife Ruby, the sons, Kaye and Tom; Mrs. Martha Jane Hansen, of Quanset Point, Rhode Island, and Carolyn.

MATTHEW GILLETT'S BRICK MANUFACTURING PLANT

This information was furnished the writer by Mr. Gillett's daughter, Mrs. Mary Toy.

Matthew Gillett was born April 8, 1820, in Orleans County, New York, and came here with his parents in 1836. The family settled in section 29, Eaton Rapids Township, which is situated diagonally across from the Brick Yard School House where the home was built.

One of the first discoveries the father made was that his newly acquired possession abounded in large deposits of excellent fire clay. The son proceeded to build a kiln and procure such other means available for the manufacture of brick. The plant was built adjacent to the road. The bricks were handmade, and the machinery mighty crude in comparison to later equipment. The first process was to prepare the clay. Then it was placed in a handmade grinder, and mixed by horse-power, moulded by hand into bricks, placed on the ground under a moistened covering, and when dried sufficiently was inclosed in a kiln which took about seven days to fire.

The school house and many homes in that vicinity, (the Annis, Spears, and Clark houses north of the school house; the Wall, Casler, and Holcomb homes on the Charlotte road,) and most of the older residences and business blocks in our village were built of bricks from the Gillett kilns.

Matthew Gillett later purchased improved machinery and increased the capacity of his plant materially. Part of the bricks in the south wing of the old State Capitol building at Lansing were fired at his kiln, and also bricks for many of the older buildings in that city.

He passed on in 1897, and as there was no one in the family or anyone else that was interested in continuing the operations of manufacturing brick, the plant was dismantled, the machinery sold, and the once-active brick kilns soon crumbled and passed into oblivion.

The next of kin living is Mrs. Mary Toy of Lansing.

THE CABINET SHOP OF ALANSON OSBORN

In 1842 the north addition of the village was laid out and Alanson Osborn erected a cabinet shop at the head of the north race. He carried on a very important business there during his lifetime; it continued to be of great benefit until it burned in 1868. While there is nothing authentic about it, yet the general supposition is that his son, Alanson Osborn, Jr., operated it until the conflagration. This building was located on the east side of North Main Street, the present site of Horner Woolen Mills Company's office.

Mr. Osborn was the victim of a peculiar and fatal sickness, passing on in 1847, the disease being diagnosed as brain fever.

Later the son held the position as Cashier in the Morgan Vaughan Bank, and was Assistant Cashier in the First National Bank when he died.

NEWSPAPERS

It is recorded that in 1843 John H. Childs, a printer, moved here, but as to his ever publishing a paper no mention was made. In a more recently published historical account, it states that the first newspaper in Eaton Rapids, called the Eaton Democrat, was established in 1847 and edited by L. W. McKinney of Lansing, the main object being to secure the publication of the tax sales, so it is evident that Mr. Childs never issued a paper here. The Democrat afterwards became the property of Judge Ezra D. Burr, who conducted it in the interest of The American or Know-Nothing party until the fall of 1854, when it was sold to the founders of the Eaton Republican and moved to Charlotte.

Shortly afterwards, a Mr. Sanford revived the Democrat, purchasing a press and material in Detroit. A little later he sold to C. C. Chatfield, who changed its name to the Eaton County Argus and secured the services of a man by the name of Burrell who was its editor and publisher for a short period of time. Ezra D. Burr purchased it soon after and conducted it as a Democratic sheet. In 1860 it was sold to Thornton Brothers and removed to Charlotte, F. W. Higby becoming its editor. It was given the name of "The Charlotte Leader"; thus two Charlotte papers, the Charlotte Republican and the Charlotte Leader, were formerly published in Eaton Rapids under another name. In speaking of the Charlotte Leader the writer can not resist commenting on its renowned editor, the late Frank A. Ells, another gentleman I held in the highest esteem and classed with many of my good friends. I first met Mr. Ells in 1904 when he had received the appointment by President Grover Cleveland as Postmaster of Charlotte. He tendered me the position of Assistant Postmaster and was somewhat disappointed when I declined his very generous offer, but I was of the opinion I had better stay in my own home town. This made no difference between us

as we were always the warmest of friends. In my estimation, he had no peer as an editorial writer and had the ability to crowd more sound and useful knowledge into a stick full of type than the average writer could in a full column.

1866 J. B. Ten Eyck established the Eaton Rapids Journal and published it until the spring of 1869, when he sold it to Frank C. Culley who in 1874 changed the name to the Saturday Journal. In 1876 the paper again changed hands, being purchased by E. O'Brien, who continued the publication of the sheet until the first of January, 1877, when Kendall Kittridge became the owner. He gave the paper its present name, "The Eaton Rapids Journal," and changed the day of publication to Friday. For more than fifty years only three other newspapers have started here, two of them being absorbed by the Journal and the other closing its doors because of the lack of patronage. The two referred to bore the names of the Eaton Rapids Herald and the Eaton Rapids Review. The former only operated about ten years and the latter about forty years, when it was merged with the Eaton Rapids Journal, in August, 1927. The following persons have owned and edited the paper, viz.: Chauncey W. Stevens, Orr Schurtz, Charles T. Fairfield, Joseph B. Hendee, J. Sumner Hamlin, Howard H. Hamlin, Robert D. Gifford, Murray J. Martin, and the present editor, Gayle D. Gifford.

WILLIAM SMITH, INDUSTRIALIST

Inventor and Manufacturer of the Metal Brass Bootstrap and Belt Fastener

William Smith was born in Ireland in 1852 and immigrated to this country with his parents, Richard and Barbara Smith, in 1857, locating in Plymouth, Ohio, where his father became a successful contractor and builder.

While he was in school, the Civil War was in progress and he, being over-enthusiastic, enlisted in 1863 in Company G, 196th Ohio Infantry. He was very large in stature, and though only a boy, managed to get by the officers, served through the conflict and was honorably discharged September 16, 1865.

In 1866 the family moved to Eaton County, locating in Charlotte. The father was an expert mason and was determined that his sons would have a trade to fall back on in case of an emer-

gency, so William and his three brothers, John M. C., Lucas J., and Richard became masons of no mean ability.

In 1878 William moved here and entered the retail boot and shoe business, the firm being Pratt and Smith. In 1880 Pratt sold his interest to Frank B. Gannon, the firm being known as Smith and Gannon.

William Smith invented the Metal Brass Boot Strap and Belt Fastener and leased space in the Samuel Horner Woolen Mills building for his stamping machine.

There was a large sale for this merchandise as it was the only article of this nature on the market. The venture was a financial success and he later sold out at a handsome profit.

In 1883 there was a rush for the West and many from this vicinity joined the caravan, locating in Dakota. Gannon could see a future in the West, so the business was sold to W. F. Stirling & Company. Smith and Gannon opened a bank in Fargo, Dakota, Mr. Smith remaining here. (This was before the Dakotas were divided and made into two states). He sold his interest in the bank two years later to Mr. Gannon.

About 1885 Smith purchased the Eaton Rapids Manufacturing Company of J. B. Delbridge, and opened a lumber yard in connection with it. In 1889 he closed the plant and sold the property to J. C. Selby of New York State, who changed it to an apple evaporating plant.

In 1887 he purchased the water rights on Grand River (at a point known as Perrine's Dam) and also a large tract of land from Solomon C. and David Perrine. He rebuilt the dam, erected a modern saw mill and several ice houses. The Michigan Central Railroad built a spur to his plant and dumped whole train loads of northern pine in the boom that was built above the dam. He shipped lumber to various sections of the United States and had a contract with the M. C. R. R. to furnish ice for their refrigerator cars from the spacious houses filled with crystal ice from the River Grand. He was also a partner in the Smith and Adams lumber yard in Jackson.

In 1895 Smith purchased several parcels of land in Cheboygan

County, erected a saw mill at Wolverine and moved all of his equipment there. In September, 1899, he was standing on the track of the mill talking with his boss sawyer, Moon Sumerix. The dog on the lever that controls the movement of the carriage jarred out of the notch and let the carriage move forward, knocking both men down. Sumerix sustained a broken leg, but Mr. Smith was so badly injured he succumbed the next day.

No person was ever shown any more respect than he on the day of the funeral. Three organizations of which he was a member turned out en masse to honor their fellow member. Charlotte Commandery No. 37, Knights Templar, was headed by Baughman's Military Band of that city; the Elks of Jackson were escorted by the Boos Band of Jackson; and the Eaton Rapids City Band led the James B. Brainerd Post No. 111 G. A. R. of this city.

Thus, perhaps the leading industrialist of his day in our little city had been cut down at the tender age of forty-seven years. He had many important projects in store for us which at his demise faded from the picture, as no one but Mr. Smith would have been able to consummate them. This city felt his passing keenly.

DANIEL B. HOSLER'S WAGON SHOP

In searching all available records, the writer is unable to ascertain in what year Daniel B. Hosler moved here and where from. There was a kinship between the Hoslers and the Horace M. Hamiltons, who moved here from Washtenaw County in 1866. Their homes were built on adjoining lots. The Hamilton's house is the one now owned by the Vern Cosgrays and the Hosler's the next house east, the residence of the Harry Heaton.

The Hosler home used to be one of the show places in the village as the front fence was built in sections and in each section the boards or pickets were pointed and closely assembled at the bottom and spread out like a fan, completely filling the opening. This was referred to as the "Rising Sun Fence"—very novel and beautiful.

Daniel Hosler, a wagon maker by trade, bought the land upon which the Osborn Cabinet Shop was located, and erected a

building about 30 by 60 feet, with the entrance on Canal Street. His nephew, "Billie" Hosler, invented a reducing gadget that would cut a spoke to any desired size to fit into the felly. Daniel sold the property on East Hamlin Street and purchased the triangular piece of land between North Main and Canal Street, now occupied by the Trimble Oil Company.

Jeanette, the Hosler's only child, was a graduate of Olivet College, a musician, and for many years the city librarian. At her passing, Mr. and Mrs. Heileman O. Miller were named beneficiaries in the will. The house was moved to Dexter Road, divided, and made into two dwellings, one now the home of John J. Miller, and the other occupied by Richard White.

AN OLD "LANDMARK"

Without a doubt one of the oldest business buildings in the city is the brick edifice that stands next to the power dam.

In all probability it was built by James Strawn who conducted a carriage and blacksmith shop on the lower floor and a paint shop on the upper floor during the late '60's.

Since its erection it has been occupied almost continuously housing: Harry Winters, blacksmith; L. T. White, the Island City Dye Company of which he was the originator and manufacturer; The Whipple Harrow Company; Selby's Evaporator; True Manufacturing Company; Abrams and Burt Flour Mill; and for the past twenty years Foote and Custer, who operate under the slogan "The best gas station in Michigan 'by a dam site'".

During the brief existence of the "Pingree Guards" the upper floor was used as their Armory.

Until the two townships built their town halls, Hamlin voted here and Eaton Rapids voted in the Red Ribbon Hall.

COBBLERS

Back in the '60's, shoes for men were not very common, but as the years progressed shoe factories came into being and they became more popular; yet the older generation still clung to their fine calf boots. The hand manufacturing of boots is a lost art.

In these early days our little village possessed a few cob-

blers of the old school and each had his clientele for footwear. They were George L. Booth and P. W. Conley, Isaiah Ferris, Albert Lackey, and John Washburn. The former men operated a small shop on the present site of the Capron block, now occupied by Tony Schad and Paul Hall. Isaiah Ferris worked at his home, Lackey was located with Joseph Carr, and Washburn did repair work for L. A. Bentley. These gentlemen could take a measure and make a dress boot that would fit the customer's feet perfectly. Later, all did repair work almost exclusively, as did L. D. (Dad) Chapman and Edw. Grigware, later cobblers. Today all this work is done by machinery, our two operators being the late Robert Mitchell and Paul Hall.

MILLER DAIRY FARMS

John George Miller and his wife, Rebecca Singer-Miller, were born in Niagara County, New York, and were married in the early '60's, being childhood sweethearts.

In 1867 they disposed of their possessions in New York and moved to Michigan, purchasing eighty acres of land in Lansing township, Ingham County. Dennis G., the only son, was born there in 1869 and Arabella, the daughter, six years his senior, was born in New York.

In 1873 Mr. Miller sold his farm to the city of Lansing for \$8,000, receiving for his pay a bond on the city of Lansing for a duration of twenty years with interest at ten percent. This property is now Mount Hope Cemetery.

The same year he moved his family here and purchased the 116-acre farm of Joel Latson, east on the Montgomery Plains, a portion of which is located in the city limits of Eaton Rapids.

He died in 1882, leaving the widow and children to take advantage of his efforts in developing their agricultural possessions. Dennis attended the local high school, but being desirous of attaining higher learning entered the Michigan Agricultural College in 1887, enrolling in the Mechanical Engineering Department. After two and one-half years he returned to the farm and has followed that vocation since.

In 1894 he married Miss Mary Edith (Minnie) Fowler, and the newlyweds confined their efforts to farming until 1896 when

they conceived the idea of manufacturing ice-cream. They started by the old method of "grinding it out by hand." The first year they produced 162 gallons, while their daily average now is between 4,000 and 6,000 gallons. Their first customer was E. D. Corbin, who was operating a restaurant here at that time.

They saw a future in this venture, so a treadmill was added to their equipment, calves furnishing the power. This means of operating became inadequate and a change was made to a steam engine with a gasoline burner, this being supplemented by a wood burner. In 1907 electric motors were installed and that type of energy has since been utilized.

Three children came to gladden the hearts of the Millers, two boys, George and Charles, and a girl, Rhea. All graduated from the local public schools. The parents could see the advantage of higher training, so the children were allowed to select the college from which they chose to obtain their degrees. The boys followed in their father's foot-steps and attended Michigan State College, George graduating in 1917, and Charles in 1924, each receiving the degree of B.S. Rhea received her B.M. degree in music from Albion College in 1917, and A.B. degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1926. All have made a phenomenal success in their chosen fields. Rhea has been the supervisor of music in the Saginaw Schools for several years. Charles specialized in judging stock, and after he completed college his services in stock exhibitions were in demand, he being acknowledged while in college as the best student judge of Holstein and Jersey cattle in collegiate competition (1923) in the United States. For this he was handsomely remunerated and was the recipient of many trophies as well. One that he cherished most highly was a gold cup from the England Jersey Association of Great Britain.

At the time George graduated, war had been declared on Germany. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy, transferred to the Naval Air Force, received his wings in 1918, was commissioned and held over as a flight instructor at the Dinner Key Air Base located at Coconut Grove, Florida.

In 1925 the boys were taken into the firm, George being

assigned to calling on the trade and to the advertising, while Charles took over the managing of the plant and the manufacturing of the different products. Dad, the boss farmer, and mother, with the firm grasp on the purse strings—no stronger combination can be formed in any organization.

The increase in business began gradually and it had reached such a volume that it was apparent they must procure more land to furnish food for their growing herds in order to supply their ever-increasing trade.

At present they are operating eleven farms consisting of 1350 acres. They feed 250 head of Holstein cattle, which necessitates the harvesting of over 300 acres of corn and approximately 400 acres of alfalfa and brome annually. In addition they operate six trucks that collect milk over a radius of twenty-five miles.

The plant is located at the homestead on Farm No. 1. From here eight trucks, five semi's and three one and one-half ton (mechanically refrigerated) trucks deliver their products to more than 200 customers, besides their stores located at Grand Rapids, Hastings, Ann Arbor (2), Ypsilanti, Three Rivers, Sturgis, Adrian, Fort Wayne, Ind. (3), and their latest, in this city, The Old Mill.

Besides ice cream the plant produces the following: cottage cheese, butter, condensed milk, milk powder, ice cream mix; and at the Miller's Specialty Company in Kalamazoo, a building recently purchased from the Engleman Frozen Products Company, they manufacture Eskimo Pies, Paddle-pops, Popcycles, and condensed chocolate.

The firm has a recently-installed milk condenser that removes more than 11,000 pounds of water per hour out of liquid milk.

In 1936 they purchased the water power at Smithville, and with the addition of two 500 horse power Diesel engines, the combined hydro-electric energy produces a peak load of 1000 K. W. hours, which is used in the operation of their own plant, the balance being sold to the Rural Electrical Administration, and consumed in rural areas between Portland and Jackson.

The firm destroys nothing of value, and perhaps that is one of the big reasons for their success in producing so many different

articles. Even the whey, the liquid that emanates from the production of butter and cottage cheese, is used with corn and other mashes raised on the farm to fatten from 500 to 1000 porkers annually for the market.

In 1939 they set aside seventy acres for the establishment of an airplane field which bears their name. This gives a run-way of 3500 feet in any direction. Besides the spacious hangar, the only other buildings at the airport are the machine shop and the residence of William Hawk, the instructor. There are approximately fifty licensed pilots in this vicinity and ten own their own craft.

Last summer a dawn patrol was held here and over 260 planes landed at the airport with approximately 300 passengers besides the pilots. The Millers furnished the breakfast which consisted of pancakes and sausage, coffee and a half cantaloupe filled with their famous ice cream. It was estimated that 355 availed themselves of their host's generosity. This entire function was planned in every detail and supervised by Arthur Jowett, distribution manager of the firm.

The Millers have won several awards, not taking into consideration the highest test made at different times as to the amount of butter-fat produced during a given period from several different cows of their large herd of Holsteins.

The following awards were received by Mr. Miller. One is a wooden pedestal which is adorned on its top by a miniature ear of corn in gold. On the side of the pedestal is a silver plaque with the following inscription: "D. G. Miller—Miller's Dairy Farm—County Grand Champion 1939—DeKalb Corn Championship." Upon another silver plaque is the following: "Meritorious Award in Dairying — Dennis Miller — Michigan State College, 1942." In 1896 when Mr. and Mrs. Miller launched out in the manufacturing of ice cream they purchased their flavoring from Foote and Jenks of Jackson and in recognition of their continued patronage, the firm presented Mr. Miller with a wooden plaque upon which was attached a copper shield with the following engraving: "Dennis G. Miller and Miller's Dairy Farms—In grateful Recognition of Loyal Patronage During the Half Cen-

tury, 1896—1946—Foote and Jenks, Flavor Specialists, Jackson, Michigan."

The first break in this family organization was in 1940 when the mother was called to that eternal rest, a teaching she had inculcated throughout her entire lifetime not only at the parental fireside, but in the community at large and particularly in her church, the local First Methodist Episcopal Church of which she was a devoted member.

On December 14, 1946, the community was stunned when the news was flashed that Charles had been killed in a plane crash. He and Miss Ruth Ford, supervisor of their stores, were returning from a business trip to the Kalamazoo plant. Darkness enveloped the port and, as it was not lighted, Charles was obliged to make a blind landing. No doubt they were nearer the ground than they anticipated, as the plane came in contact with a tree that tore off one of the wings and caused the plane to crash to the ground. Mr. Miller was killed instantly and Miss Ford lived but a short time after being admitted to the Stimson Hospital. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ford, born in Eaton Rapids township, a graduate from the city schools and had received her A.B. Degree in Rural Sociology at the University of Michigan. She was a member of the First Congregational Church.

Mr. Miller was one of the progressive young men in our city. He was behind all civic improvements, subscribed liberally to every worthwhile project, especially those of importance to young people. He was particularly interested in his church, and was head of a movement to change the seating in the sanctuary. The profusion of floral emblems at the funeral spoke volumes as to the high esteem in which he was held by those with whom he had come in contact. This closed the chapter of a brilliant life, whose aim was to create better conditions for all mankind.

In the typical Miller tradition, the family is continuing to expand the volume of their plants in order to cope with their ever-growing business.

Next of kin of the D. G. Miller family: George Fowler Miller, Miss Rhea Miller, and Charles D. Miller's daughters, Annette and Sara.

BARBERS

For many years this line of work was carried on almost exclusively by colored men. One by the name of "Jim" Alspaugh operated a shop here and moved to Lansing before the writer came into existence.

At the close of the Civil War Nathaniel H. Davis was brought here by Captain Joshua Slayton; a short time later his brother Aaron Davis came and in the early '70's they opened a barber shop. Both were slaves, but during the conflict between the North and South became free and joined the Union army.

Shortly afterwards Aaron moved to Alma, Michigan. "Nat," as he was familiarly known, married and had two sons, Bennie and Louie, who worked with their father. The former was an expert on ice skates.

About 1875 Albert Newman came here from Fowlerville, and later Alex Gardner, from Howell, joined him. Leonard Newman, a son, worked with his father until his death.

Newman was a great fancier of horse flesh and owned some good "fast steppers" at different times, "Walnut" the foremost one.

Others who had this vocation were Andrew Higgins, who married Newman's youngest daughter, Eunice; Steve Craig; and Henry Hawkins, who was a mighty well-built man, over six feet in height, weighing about 200 pounds, and very handy with his "dukes." He had a powerful bass voice and in his younger days was a member of the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers from Tennessee, one of the best traveling colored group of entertainers on the road at that time.

Both Mesdames Davis and Newman were experts in hair weaving.

The white tonsorial artists located here down through the years are: "Doc" Berger, "Deak" Lane and brother Clinton, Bert Disbrow, Rufus C. Dernier, Vern Pratt, Floyd Van Auker, Virgil Welsh, Ed French, Jack Thomas, Grinnell Brothers (Fred and Frank), Frank Butler and son, Charles, Don Christie, Allie Henry and son, Wayne, Albert Zeinert, Kenneth Hixson and Kenneth Brown.

COL. I. C. MOORE CLOTHING STORE

Col. I. C. Moore came here from New York State in the early '70's and opened a clothing store, now occupied by the Ray Hocott Bakery. M. L. Clark, (I believe from Coldwater) was employed as clerk. Mr. Clark purchased the stock and the location was changed to the store in the Swezey block, now the Shimmin Drug Store.

The store has changed hands only a few times, and this information follows: M. L. Clark & Company, The M. L. Clark Cash Clothing Company, (moved to the Belnap building on the east side of South Main Street), Clark L. Belnap, John T. Alt, Alt Clothing Company.

THE LONE STORE

Col. I. C. Moore built the store at 311 South Main Street in the '70's and while it is separated from the rest of the business section, yet it has had a tenant almost constantly.

An advertisement appearing in the Eaton Rapids Journal under date of November 2, 1878, gives the following:

"Ed Elles-Poultry-Butter-Eggs and Dried Apples." Mr. Elles married Louie Doust, daughter of Rev. Doust, pastor of the First Methodist Church at that time.

An advertisement in the Journal under date of August 2, gives W. M. Toles and Son as proprietors, and in the issue of July 22, 1886, lists Barnes and Osborn as owners.

Others operating the store are: Martin Norton, Warren Stoddard, Dexter Blake, Samuel Brunk, Fred Henry, Charles Mackey, Roy Hyatt and Lawrence Hyatt.

Next of kin that are living: W. M. Toles' daughter, Miss Ada Toles of Alameda, Calif.; Henry Barnes' daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Lake and her daughter, Mrs. Cecil Trimble of this city; Chris Barnes' daughters, Mrs. Flossie Stoddard and Mrs. Mae Eschenbacher of Winter Park, Florida; Warren Stoddard's daughter, Margaret of Monroe and his grandson, Keith Stoddard of Dallas, Texas; Dexter Blake's son Dexter Blake, Jr. of this city; Fred Henry's sons Vern, Ivan and Carl; Charles Mackey's daughter, Lois of Monroe; Roy Hyatt's children, Mrs. Loren Lane, Mrs. Myrtle May, Lawrence Hyatt, Mrs. Millicent Smith and Miss

Marion Hyatt, all of this city.

THE MICHIGAN PEAT COMPANY

Perhaps one of the most unfortunate things in our early history was the organization of the Michigan Peat Company, whose stock was placed on the market in the early part of the century. The failure of this concern left a "dark brown" taste in the mouths of not only our local citizens but others that bought the stock.

One would vouch for the honesty of those local men who were behind the movement, but it appears that they were double-crossed by the operators and those given the contract to erect the plant.

In Ireland the muck land is spaded up in convenient lengths, and piled up like cord wood to dry and furnishes a good grade of fuel.

The Peat Company bought and had options on several hundred acres of muck land north of the city, and the plan was to process it and sell it for fuel.

Two large concrete buildings were erected, a siding was run to the plant from the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad, and all arrangements were made for shipping the output. The machinery was installed, a miniature track laid, and small cars put into service to transport the "bog" from the muck fields to the plant. Here it went through a process of extracting the water from the muck and forcing it into molds with tiny compartments about the size of No. 4 coal. The molds were then placed in an oven where the muck was thoroughly baked, and when the molds were opened the muck was transported to storage bins. Before shipping, a sufficient amount of time was supposed to have elapsed to have the material solidify, but such was not the case; the longer the nuggets lay in the bin, the softer they became, and when handled returned to their original state.

Everything possible was done to overcome this one failure in the processing, but because of this the whole proposition was a complete failure. It was later discovered that the muck was not of the right texture to adhere.

It developed that the contractors installed machinery in the

plant that had been discarded from a sugar beet manufacturing unit of the Michigan Sugar Company organization in Mt. Pleasant. Whether this was known by the local boys no one will ever know, but all was a total loss. More than \$250,000 in stock was sold,—a "black eye" for Eaton Rapids.

During the past twenty-five years this acreage has been cleared and developed into one of the finest vegetable gardens in Michigan. Thousands of bushels of onions, carrots and potatoes are raised annually and have a ready market in the United States, yielding a nice profit to the owners.

In 1928 Fred B. Todd and son, Charles B. Todd, purchased the entire acreage and buildings of the Michigan Peat Company, which they operated as a vegetable garden until they sold to Paul E. Huston in 1945, who continues in the same line.

COOPERS

On account of the large acreage of apple trees in this vicinity, barrel-making was carried on quite extensively and that furnished employment for several coopers. The early coopers were David Strong, Allen Hobbs, Charles Smith and Harvey Wheeler.

David Strong is the only one familiar to the writer. His shop was located at his home, now the site of the Church of God. He was the grandfather of the late D. Hayden Brown. These fellows had to start the barrels from the beginning, cut their staves, heads and hoops. The barrels were usually made from oak and were containers for cider, vinegar, soft soap, lard and other articles manufactured on the farm in those days.

There being such a demand for Michigan apples, a stave factory was built here which furnished all material used in the manufacture of the barrels used in shipping the fruit. Thomas J. Bromeling operated a large shop on the present site of the "Mascot" for many years. In 1885 the present Methodist Church was built, and the old edifice was moved to that parcel of ground between the Chris Davidson home and the race, and was used for a cooper shop for about twenty years, when it was razed.

A few of those following this vocation were Ira McArthur Sr., Ira McArthur Jr., G. Elmer McArthur, George Wells Jr., and Nicholas Wells.

THE STAVE MILL

There is no record by whom or when the Stave Mill was built, but the Eaton County Directory published by C. Exera Brown of East Saginaw in 1872 gives the following: "Leonard Hale, manufacturer and dealer in staves, headings and shingles." It was located on Line Street almost due west and across the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern tracks from H. P. Webster and Son's office.

In April 1880, there appeared an advertisement in the Eaton Rapids Journal that C. W. Stevens was its owner and that it was for sale.

Ira Latson owned the farm now known as Eaton Acres (across from A. P. Green) and he and Mr. Stevens made an even trade. Latson sold an interest to Thos. J. Bromeling and L. A. Bentley.

Unfortunately the mill was destroyed by fire a short time afterward, and was never rebuilt. This loss was keenly felt by the local coopers as there was a large acreage of apples in this vicinity that necessitated the production of thousands of barrels annually. Now they were forced to bear the expense of having material shipped in.

Next of kin living are: L. A. Bentley's son, Homer S. Bentley; Thos. J. Bromeling's grandson, Thos. Bromeling of Albion.

HARNESS SHOPS

At the present time there is not a harness shop in existence for many miles. The harness-making trade is a lost art, as harnesses are all made by machinery; all repair work is done by shoe cobblers. The advent of the tractor has put "Old Dobbin" in the background, although there are a few farmers that stick to their trusty steeds and these as a rule are of superior breed and well-groomed.

What pleasure it is to see a well-matched team "champing at the bit" and ready and willing to do their part to compensate for their keep.

Those men who operated harness shops here in the past were Charles T. Hartson, Henry Mendell, John Wood, Charles W. Vail, Charles Moore, John Henderson, Lee Gypsum, George Wolford, Frank Rank and Clare W. Greene.

TINSMITHS

Another lost art. Today all tinware is made by machinery. Eighty years ago all tinsmiths had to be possessed with a reasonable knowledge of geometry, and to be able to apply the square and compass in laying out their work.

Former tinsmiths capable of doing this work were: Edwin P. Knight, Lee Henderson, Jerry Schofield, Walter Arnold, John Caple, James Russell, Charley Waltersdorf, Ben Knight, and Peter Belan, all of whom have passed on.

THE FISH LINE FACTORY

In the latter '70's, Hiram Priest moved here from Indiana and established a plant for the manufacture of fish lines and rope.

The building was unpretentious, about 10 by 75 feet in size, yet housed the meager machinery required to manipulate the plant. The extreme length was necessary in order to operate and complete the twisting of the material used in the construction of the different grades and sizes of line. Hemp was used exclusively in the manufacture of rope; the limit in size was one-fourth inch. Chalk line for carpenters and masons was another item, there was quite a demand for, but the plant's specialty was fishline made of silk, linen and other materials.

The power was supplied by a large wooden wheel about five feet in diameter stationed at one end of the building, from which a leather belt extended to and connected with the different twisters, the size of which depended on the item in the process of manufacture. During this operation the line or rope extended from the twister to the opposite end of the building where it was held taut until the exact texture and size were obtained.

The wheel, to which a handle was attached, was operated by man power. The boys, Charles, James, and Leander, assisted their father materially in operating the plant by taking their turn at the wheel. The Priest line had a fine reputation. It maintained a superior quality and held the confidence of the trade.

After the passing of Mr. Priest the plant ceased to operate. Nothing has been heard of the family in years. The plant was located west on Brook Street, at the site of the present home

of Francis Pitcher.

EATON RAPIDS MANUFACTURING COMPANY

In 1879, a stock company composed of John M. Corbin, E. S. Harris, H. L. Field, P. K. Bromeling and G. T. Sprague formed the Eaton Rapids Manufacturing Company where later the Hansen Packing Company was located, and besides operating their planing mill, they manufactured doors, window frames, blinds, flooring and siding. They employed about ten people.

In 1882, J. B. Delbridge of Detroit purchased the business and three years later sold it to William Smith.

They must have pleased their customers as I quote the following from the files of the Eaton Rapids Journal in March, 1884: "The Eaton Rapids Manufacturing Company is in full blast again—they have one order for 1380 window sash and 672 doors."

On account of his many other activities, Mr. Smith closed the lumber yard and moved the machinery to his Smithville plant, disposing of the property to J. C. Selby of New York State.

Next of kin of the above that are living are: E. S. Harris' grandchildren, Edwin and John Harris; Mrs. Louise Brady of East Lansing; Mrs. Mary Wilson of Dimondale and Miss Margaret Harris of New York City. Rev. H. L. Field—Miss Mabel Field of Jackson, Michigan.

STIGLITZ AND MINNIE CIGAR FACTORY

None but the older residents will remember the Stiglitz and Minnie (Van and Charlie) Cigar Factory.

It started operations in the early '80's and was located upstairs in the Capron building, now the home of Mrs. Della Capron.

It was one of the largest in central Michigan, employed about twenty men and placed several good brands of cigars on the market, their two leaders being S & M (10c) and the Black Seal (5c).

Mr. Stiglitz had charge of the factory and Mr. Minnie did the sorting, grading, and packing, and called on the trade.

Mr. Minnie withdrew from the company and joined the Jackson Cracker Company at Jackson. A little later Mr. Stiglitz moved the factory to Coldwater.

THE DEFIANCE BED SPRING

It was in the early '80's that James F. Ferris started the manufacture of the Defiance Bed Spring. Mr. Ferris owned the premises where the Ralph W. Blackmore Apartments are now located. Across Water Street from the residence and at the foot of East Plain Street (on the river bank) stood a large barn in which the bed springs were manufactured. The wire came wound on a large spool and the spring was produced by feeding the wire into a coiling machine so constructed that when the spring was completed, it was about two inches in diameter in the center. It gradually became larger and was about four inches wide at either end (resembling a cone) in order to be stapled securely to the slats. Since it was rather clumsy to handle, it became very unpopular, and its manufacture was discontinued.

The Ferrises were a fine Christian family, Adventist in creed, and Mr. Ferris gave the plot of ground where the present Advent Church is located. Their house was of three apartments. His mother, Aunt Mary Ferris, and her daughter, Hattie White, occupied one, and his brother, Isaiah, and family the other. The latter was a shoe cobbler and operated his shop in a room adjacent to the apartment.

The next of kin living is Mrs. Bessie Bateman of Wolverine, Michigan. James moved to a farm in Brookfield and later to the state of Washington. There has been no trace of the family for many years.

M. G. HURD

M. G. Hurd was one of the first in this city to ship eggs and poultry in large quantities to the trade, his outlet being David, Brandt, and Becker Company in Albany, New York.

He established his business in 1881 in a very small way, but it grew gradually. As he was a very conservative businessman, he added to his plant as the business increased, but his activities were soon brought to a close as he passed on in 1908. For over twenty years the firm had the enviable record of shipping from sixty to sixty-five car loads of eggs and one half million pounds of poultry annually.

At this time his son Hugh M. Hurd was only eighteen years

of age, but he took up the reins where his father dropped them and carried on.

In 1922 he purchased the Eaton Packing Company Plant building, and the following year enlarged it and installed a modern poultry and egg-packing plant.

In 1928 he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Paul L. Sage, of this city and D. S. Brown of Ann Arbor, operating under the name of H. M. Hurd, Incorporated.

They were caught in the bank crash of 1933 and, like millions of other firms, were forced to close their doors.

Next of kin that are living: M. G. Hurd's children, Hugh M. Hurd of Charlotte and Mrs. Ethel Sage of this city.

THE WHIPPLE HARROW COMPANY

In 1880, E. E. Whipple started the manufacture of the Whipple Springtooth Harrow in the brick building now occupied by Foote and Custer.

It was more of an assembly proposition than anything else. Part of the wood or frame portion was sawed out at the plant while the irons were cast at some malleable iron works. Besides the harrow, light and heavy cultivators were manufactured. The different parts were dipped, the irons in black paint and the wood in red, with the following lettering stencilled on the front: "The Whipple Harrow Company—Eaton Rapids, Mich." Like many other concerns it ceased to function after two or three years.

Ex-Senator William Miller was financially interested.

The Whipple family lived in the Wesley Vaughan house, which was located just south of Mrs. Cora Horner's home. When E. E. Horner built his home, this house was moved across the street and is now the Mrs. S. Harrie Whittum residence. The Rufus H. Reynolds home was located on the corner, and that was moved on the corner lot south of Mrs. Whittum, now Roy Claflin's residence.

The next of kin living: E. E. Whipple's daughter, Mrs. Maude Whipple-Patterson of Portland, Oregon.

THE CHEESE FACTORY

The farmers in this vicinity formed a co-partnership in 1880 and built a cheese factory, it being located on the west side of

Spicerville Road, immediately south of the Michigan Central Railroad tracks. It was made a co-operative association two years later. George Young, an Eaton Rapids township farmer, was chosen as manager.

Albert Goodrich of Olivet, an experienced cheese maker, was employed to take charge of the plant. They made an excellent grade of cream cheese and had a quick sale for their entire output.

From an item in the Eaton Rapids Journal in October, 1884, we quote the following: "Over eleven and a half tons of cheese were shipped from the factory in this City to Liverpool, England, last week."

For some unknown reason the company was dissolved and again what might have been a growing enterprise for our little city went out of existence.

EATON COUNTY PICKLE COMPANY

The Eaton County Pickle Company was started here in the spring of 1899 by Bert Littell and George Wymer, of Clyde, Ohio. It was under the management of Mr. Littell until 1908 when it was sold to Charles M. Hunt, George P. Honeywell and C. D. Wisner. While a resident here Mr. Littell served the city as Mayor for one term.

In the fall of 1918, J. Manley Card of Ypsilanti purchased the business and operated it until 1937, when it was sold to Edgar Ruthuff of Marshall.

During the Hunt and Card regimes kraut and cider were manufactured, but this was discontinued as it impeded the progress in preparing pickles for their customers.

Ever since its inception it has been a growing industry, and especially in the past ten years it has increased its output rapidly.

They have from 750 to 800 acres planted every year by farmers in this vicinity; 55,000 bushels of cucumbers were produced last year, which filled the 70 vats, the capacity of the plant. After processing and finishing, the pickles filled nearly 9,000 barrels—3,000 of which were dills. It took about 100 cars to move the crop.

The present officers are: Edgar Ruthuff, President; Mrs. Edgar Ruthuff, Vice-President; Lawrence Diehl, Secretary and Treasurer.

Next of kin in the Charles M. Hunt family are: Louis, his children, Lawrence, Robert, Gilbert and Betty Hansen; Fred: Donald, a foster son; Mina; Genevieve Bostedor and her daughter, Jean Cantine. All are residents of this city except Lawrence, who is a member of the Barker-Fowler Co. in Lansing.

THE PETRIEVILLE AXE FACTORY

The axe factory, while a side issue, was one plant in which Mr. O.H.P. Springer took a profound interest. Through his many connections in the lumber business he knew one of the articles that would be heralded by the woodsmen was a good axe, and he was determined to manufacture one that would meet this requirement. He secured the services of Henry F. Hoyt, an expert craftsman, to whom he gave supervision of the plant, and an A-1 article was produced. The "Petrieville Axe" was said to be one of the best on the market and always had orders on its books. It never lacked for financial backing, yet was impeded in progress on account of the limited space for operation. Mr. Hoyt passed on and Horace M. Holcomb, a member of the firm interested George Pettit and M. P. Bromeling in the organization.

In 1902 the dam washed out, and because there was no power available the plant was moved to Eugene Woodruff's blacksmith shop in this city. Mr. Woodruff purchased an interest in the company, Mr. Pettit disposing of his stock, the company now being Holcomb, Woodruff and Bromeling. In their new quarters the company took on a new impetus, their output being increased materially. They finished each day one dozen stone hammers, three dozen axes, four dozen cold chisels and five dozen butcher knives.

The fine quality of these different articles was the basis upon which their reputation hinged, and upon the passing of Hoyt, Mr. Holcomb stepped into the breach. Because of his close association with the founder, he was able to keep the quality of the products up to the original standard.

To show what place the Petrieville axe occupied in its field, the first prize was awarded it at the State Fair held in Detroit in 1905.

Two other important phases of the business were the grinding under the supervision of Eugene Bronson and the polishing in charge of Newton Rogers. Of all the persons that were ever connected with the plant, the latter is the only one living, though quite feeble. Incidentally, he was a very effective baseball pitcher. He was tall, rangy, and with his speed and habit of starting the ball high the batter invariably hit a pop fly or an easy grounder.

The National Cutlery Company of Detroit purchased the plant in 1907 and it was moved to that city.

Reynolds Brothers, William and Herbert, formerly in the dry goods business in this city, were substantially interested in a financial way in the Detroit firm and without a doubt, knowing the reputation of the products of the concern, they were anxious to add that line to their company. A number of the local men were employed by the Detroit firm.

Now all is changed. The buildings that housed the enterprises have disappeared—even the dam has gone to decay and is a mass of ruins, and the Grand is not impeded in the least, but goes merrily on its way to assist in creating power for the prosperity of another community.

The only evidence that is left of the quaint settlement is the general store which Clarence P. Springer and his wife operated for more than forty years before moving to Florida. The Charles Bentley workshop, erected more recently, is the only manufacturing enterprise in the village, but no activity exists there on account of the death of the owner.

Horace Holcomb's family now living are Merl, of Detroit; Glen Holcomb, his wife Grace, of this city and children, Robert and Mrs. Letha Doxtader of Lansing. Floyd Rogers and Mrs. Neva Lindell, of Detroit, are the next of kin living of the Newton Rogers family.

TAILORS

Eaton Rapids, like many other small communities, has never had an excessive number of tailors. Among the first that the writer has been able to find are William Kelley and his wife Sophia, a tailoress, who worked for I. N. Reynolds and Company, operators of a general store at that time. Their only daughter,

Nellie, married Charles M. Segar, to which union three daughters were born, Grace, who is dead; Genevieve McCloud of Milan; and the whereabouts of Marie is unknown. Mrs. Kelley's residence was on South Main Street (now the home of Ben Finch) when she passed on.

William Jordan conducted his shop at his residence, the south east corner of State and Forest Streets, since destroyed by fire. Frank, the son, was a blacksmith, a baseball pitcher, and was one of the first in this locality to acquire and use effectively the curve ball. Next of kin that is living is William's daughter, Mrs. Nelle Wood of Lake Worth, Florida.

In March, 1880, the name of J. Silber appears in the Eaton Rapids Journal. He made the uniforms for Horace S. Maynard's prize-winning band, twenty in number, for \$300.00. The material was a dark blue broad-cloth. The coat was cut swallow-tail with stripes of red of the same material across the breast and bound with gold braid. The epaulettes were made to match. The hat had a white plume topped with red. There was a white belt with a pouch for bandbooks. Down the side of the trousers was a blue and red stripe edged with gold braid.

John Blacker's advertisement appears in the Eaton Rapids Journal under date of October 10, 1884. He came here from Leslie and purchased the building now occupied by Dr. H. V. Martin, where he conducted his business up to the time of his death. The family lived on the second floor. The next of kin were Mrs. Ella Cantine of Battle Creek, Miss Mary Blacker of Detroit, and Mrs. Margaret Bromeling of this city. Mrs. Cantine passed away on December 5, 1949. Mrs. Bromeling died on June 28, 1950, and Miss Blacker died November 18, 1950.

Edward B. Young of Canada located here in August, 1892, and opened a shop in the building now owned and operated by Allie Henry's barber shop. He married Lizzie, the only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Wilkins. A charming daughter Margaret was born, but was called home at the budding of young womanhood.

Ed Hart came here in 1893 and occupied the building vacated by Mr. Young. In February, 1899, Walter J. Uhr of Atlanta,

Illinois, came to work for Mr. Hart. In January, 1902, he moved to Chicago where he operated his tailor shop employing fifteen people. On disposing of it, he returned here in October, 1938, and is associated with the Alt Clothing Store in the alteration department. Mr. Hart moved to Detroit about 1910 and entered the Ford Motor Company Plant.

R. D. WOOD, THE BAKER

Founder of the Eaton Rapids Cracker Co.

The older residents can recall the time when they could depend upon R. D. Wood, the village baker, for everything in this line. The Woods moved here in the '70's (I believe from Ohio) and by the quality of their merchandise and the courteous treatment to the trade, they built up a lucrative business. Their store was located two doors north of the building in which the present fire department is now housed.

In the early '80's, a co-partnership was formed under the name of R. D. Wood and Company. A building was erected, the first store south of the fire department, for the purpose of manufacturing crackers, ginger snaps, etc., to be known as the Eaton Rapids Baking Company. Those interested with Mr. Wood at this time are not known by the writer. From all reports they produced a fine line of goods. Since this was the only factory of its kind in this part of the state, naturally they enjoyed a thriving business. From an article appearing in the Journal, an issue in November, 1883, we quote the following: "R. D. Wood and Company have just received an order for 15 barrels of crackers from a firm in Ellendale, Dakota." (At this time several families from this city and vicinity had moved to Ellendale, which undoubtedly prompted the order). Fred Carr was the "boss-baker." The Woods owned property on Brook Street, now the home of Arthur Langdon. There were two sons in the family, Ed and Bert, who moved to the northern part of the state many years ago.

For some reason unknown to the writer the plant was moved to Jackson in the early '90's and became known as the Jackson Cracker Company. H. C. Minnie traveled for the Company and James H. Gallery had charge of the office and was head

bookkeeper. Charles Hayes, now head of the Hayes Wheel Corporation of Jackson, was office boy. Mr. Gallery loved to reminisce as he sat in his favorite chair in the post office, watching the smoke curl from his ever-present pipe. With a smile and a toss of the head, he probably remarked, "I taught Charles Hayes the fundamentals that go into the making of a first class bookkeeper." From the writer's viewpoint, young Hayes could not have had a better tutor.

A little later a corporation known as the National Biscuit Company was formed and the Jackson Cracker Company became one of its units. Those known to the writer from this city who were interested in the Company at this time were John M. Corbin, E. S. Harris, and H. C. Minnie. They were paid a very fabulous price for their stock, ten for one or, in other words, \$10,000 for \$1,000 in stock. \$10,000 was not "peanuts" in those days. It was the foundation that launched many persons interested in the company on an early start to riches. Thus Eaton Rapids was "sold out" for some reason and lost an institution that might have stimulated it to becoming a leading manufacturing center.

THE SELBY EVAPORATOR

The farmers in this immediate vicinity planted large apple orchards. They had been careful in selecting the most salable varieties, and without a doubt this was a strong factor that prompted J. C. Selby of New York State to open up an evaporator here in 1889.

The evaporator was divided into three sections, the main one occupying the building now operated by Foote and Custer. There were both male and female employees. On the ground floor were located the boiler, engine, the washer (all fruit was thoroughly washed) and the paring and coring machines. The fruit was then transferred to the second floor by an elevator (similar to a straw carrier) where it passed through the bleaching cabinet (sulphur fumes). From here it was fed through two slicers, each operated by an attendant whose duty it was to see that each apple was set upright in order to have it sliced properly (like a doughnut) and thereby made more salable. After emerging from the slicer, each ringlet was carefully laid on a rack three by three

feet with a screen bottom, and then placed in the evaporator.

There were four evaporator units, each about five feet in height, seven feet wide and fourteen feet in length through which steam pipes were placed at intervals. There were four sections on each side and five compartments in each section. Each compartment had a door that swung down. The racks were slid into the compartment built for that purpose and when it was filled, the door was closed. Each unit was attended by two men, one on either side, to inspect the fruit at intervals to see that it did not scorch or burn. They were provided with a wooden ladle or paddle to loosen the fruit from the screen and they were busy most of the time. When the fruit had been dried to the right texture, it was placed in large bins.

In another compartment on this floor were the facers and packers. The choice ringlets were selected by women employees and laid on a fancy paper which was placed on a board about eight by fourteen inches in size. This was the facer which was nailed to a box of the same dimensions and approximately six inches deep. The box was filled with fruit and the bottom nailed on, so when the box was opened it presented a very neat appearance. In our stores of today you will see all kinds of evaporated fruit displayed in fancy boxes to attract the eye of the retail trade. This may seem like a new venture to you, but sixty years ago attractive fruit boxes came from the Selby plant. Such was the demand for this product that it was shipped all over the United States. Mr. Selby also leased several acres of land which were planted to raspberries. This crop, too, was evaporated in the season and, like the apples, had a good market. They say of the meat packers that they use everything but the squeal of the pig. Selby went them one better; he used everything. The peeling and cores were dried and sold to distillers; from this they made champagne.

The second unit was across the river on the land now occupied by the concrete block house (known as the Eugene Strank home). It was a wooden building twenty by thirty feet in dimension in which a large heating stove was enclosed. This was known as the dry kiln, where the peelings and cores were prepared for ship-

ment. This building caught fire twice but the fire was extinguished before much damage was done.

The third unit was on the site later occupied by the Hansen Packing Company plant. This was also a steam plant for drying the fruit. The building housing the boiler faced the street, with the dryer, through which a series of steam pipes were placed, in the rear. The compartment for holding the fruit was made of wood and because of the extreme heat became so inflammable that a fire ensued. The water in the pipes turned into steam and was forced back into the boiler. This was not built to withstand such extra pressure and an explosion occurred. Thomas J. Bromeling, the fireman, was caught in the flying debris and suffered a broken back from which he never recovered. Mr. Selby did not rebuild the plant. He returned to his former home in New York State.

CHARLES STEVENSON

Rag Picking Rooms

One of the active businesses in the '90's was the rag picking establishment owned and operated by Charles Stevenson, located on the land now housing the Hathaway Body Shop on Hall Street.

It reached such a magnitude that rags in bales were shipped here by the carload. There were twenty or more women given employment. Each employee had a sorting table about six feet by six feet upon which the rags were placed. On the left side of the table was the butt end of a scythe with about a foot of the blade attached. The blade was very sharp and was used in separating the rags when sewed together. The use of shears in the process was deemed too slow. Around each table were eight or ten open burlap bags and the operator would separate the different kinds of rags, colors, et cetera, and deposit them in their respective bags.

In connection with this, a tin shop was maintained in charge of Edwin P. Knight (the first white child born in the village), a tinsmith who made all the different articles by hand. A crockery and lamp store for retail trade was operated on North Main Street.

Cord wood and ice was another unit in the organization, the delivery being under the supervision of Hiram Johnson.

There were several peddlers on the road who travelled through the country, collecting rags, and these were exchanged for tinware. Each peddler had a large variety of kitchen equipment inclosed in a panel job about four feet by eight feet, the rags being packed in burlap sacks and placed on top of the enclosed in a panel job about four feet by eight feet, the rags. It was a great racket and skin game. If you wanted to get gyped, you need not look further. Not that the peddlers were dishonest in weight, but you had to accept what they gave you for your scrap and like it.

Some of the peddlers were Guy DuBoise, Charles and Theodore Lown, George and Lorenzo Mellon, and William Tracey. Many peddlers from the outside came here and exchanged their rags for tinware.

At the passing of Mr. Stevenson the business was closed out, as there was no one in the immediate family to carry on.

Next of kin that are living: Hiram Johnson family, the widow, Hattie; children, Dr. Harry Johnson, Mrs. Cleone Taylor, and Mrs. Hope Dillingham of this city; John of Mt. Pleasant, and Howard of Washington, D.C.

LUCAS J. SMITH

Inventor and Manufacturer of Egg Cases and Fillers

Lucas J. Smith was born in Plymouth, Ohio, and came to this County with his family in 1866. He was educated in Charlotte, and like his brothers, became an expert mason and followed this vocation for several years. He held the position of Recorder in Charlotte, spent five years in the mercantile business, and later had a clerkship in the Auditor General's office in Lansing.

In 1897 he moved here and became manager of the saw mill owned and operated by his brother William in Smithville. His son Max was made superintendent of production. At William's death two years later, Lucas and his brother John M. C. com-

pensated the heirs for their holdings, and became the owners of the power plant and over 300 acres of land operated as a stock farm, the firm incorporated under the name of L. J. Smith & Co.

When William Smith moved all of the equipment from the saw mill to his Wolverine plant in northern Michigan, a machine to make flooring was installed for which they had a ready sale. Machinery for the manufacture of egg cases and fillers was included in the set-up; the patents on both were held by Mr. L. J. Smith. At the inception of the latter business, the annual output was about 20,000 cases, while at the peak it averaged more than 500,000. It was kept in operation during the entire year and employed nearly fifty persons. The building burned in 1923 and was never rebuilt.

On the stock farm the Smiths fed annually several hundred head of cattle, sheep and hogs, securing the best grade of breeders from the stock yards in Chicago which they were able to dispose of easily on a substantially priced market.

Mr. Smith was unusually quiet in his manner and never aspired to public office although he was a director in the First National Bank in this city at the time of his death, which occurred in 1940. The next of kin living are a son, Max Smith, and grandson Stanley Smith. Also Alden, son of Howard Smith, deceased.

A. M. SMITH & COMPANY

It was in 1899, the spring the writer's mother passed away, and he was taking his meals at the Stirling Boarding House, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Will C. Colby. Others who took their meals there were Mrs. Hattie Walter, Miss Laura Williams (Mrs. G. E. McArthur) and Dr. R. D. Wood.

It was a beautiful spring morning—three of us were at our usual places, (the Doctor was late), when a couple of young men entered the dining room. They were Ernest and Carl Smith. Mr. Colby introduced us saying that their father, of the A. M. Smith & Company of Boston, Massachusetts, had purchased the old Selby Evaporator plant. They were rebuild it and buy eggs and poultry for the Eastern firm. He also said that they were staying at the J. W. Stirling cottage at the Camp Ground. Just

then the Doctor made his appearance and Mr. Colby went through the same lingo, who the boys were, their business, and where they were staying.

At this point the stage was all set for the Doctor's usual "line of bunk." He dropped into his chair and covered his face with his hands. One of us asked him what the matter was. His reply was, "I am nearly dead, haven't had my clothes off all night. The Indians came down the river again. The militia was called out about 11:00 o'clock. We hurried to the Camp Ground through S. C. Perrine's woods and managed to reach Perrine's dam as they were shooting it in their canoes. We had some trouble in stopping them. Their main object was taking the Camp Ground. It was their happy hunting ground once and they wanted it again. They would burn the cottages and replace them with their tepees. I don't know what they planned to do with the people. We got them quieted down about 6:00 o'clock and started back up the river toward Kinneyville, etc." Of course we three would occasionally pour a little oil on the dying embers, which were easily re-kindled, and the Doctor would "take off" again.

Those young fellows never "batted an eye." They "stood pat" and attended strictly to their breakfast. The above is no idle rumor. It may not be in the same order the Doctor "dished it out," but it is true nevertheless.

The Smith boys, especially Carl, and the Doctor became bosom friends, and remained so all through life.

Rebuilding the old evaporator plant began at once, including the installation of a large ice house, which was filled each winter from Spring Brook that flows adjacent to the plant. This gave way to the ammonia cooling system in 1919.

Besides buying eggs, cream and poultry locally, they began gradually to expand, opening stations in adjoining cities. In 1917 the firm was incorporated under the firm name "The A. M. Smith Company" with Ernest Smith as President, General Manager and Treasurer, Bunnell Smith, Secretary, and Carl Smith, Assistant Treasurer and the Michigan Manager.

In 1918 Martin Hansen purchased an interest in the firm. In 1920, twenty stations were in operation furnishing employment

to forty people, and their egg business had reached that point that twelve egg candlers were employed practically the year around. Six trucks were busy making collections at the various stations.

During the poultry season (October, November and December) four men were engaged in killing and roughing, and generally thirty-five pin women did the finishing. At this time they were shipping 125 carloads of eggs, one million pounds of butter and two million pounds of poultry annually.

When Carl Smith died in 1935, Mr. Hansen assumed the management of the firm.

In 1943 a corporation was formed and purchased the Smith interests. It became the Hansen Packing Company. Martin Hansen was president, General Manager and Treasurer, and Verle Ruehle was Secretary. In 1944 the company enjoyed its largest year, shipping over two and a half million pounds of poultry. Large shipments of butter were exported during the war.

The plant had the latest mechanical devices obtainable, that are applicable toward minimizing its operations and attaining absolute sanitation. An automatic picker, capable of turning out 450 chickens an hour with one man slaughtering and ten women finishers, had been installed. An automatic butter printer that manufactured 1500 pound packages of butter an hour was used; six women were engaged in wrapping and enclosing it in cartons. They had in operation an eviscerating machine that prepared a package, containing a chicken, cellophane-wrapped for the retail market.

In 1935-36-37 the firm received an award (silver cup) from the Michigan State Fair, Detroit, on butter, the score being 95 in quality.

This plant was consumed by a fire on March 18, 1950, with a loss of between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

The Hansens next of kin living are the wife, Marie; two sons, Christie at Greenville, South Carolina, Bunnell of Quansit Point, Rhode Island; and five daughters, Jane, Jean, Sally, Sue and Sandra.

THE BRADLEY INCUBATOR COMPANY

The Bradley Incubator Company was organized in 1905 and from the outset had the ear-marks of being one of this city's leading industries. It had a novel idea of turning the eggs. In each single incubator was a square egg-turning tray. Inclosed in it were eleven rollers about the size of a broom handle and about an inch apart. The eggs were placed between the rollers. On the outside of the tray was a long lever with wires attached which passed through the tray and were embedded in the end of each roller. As the lever was moved, the rollers revolved and naturally the eggs would turn. The Company's slogan was: "Don't Handle the Eggs."

These single trays held 100 eggs and with the turning tray the entire number of eggs could be turned at one operation. The turning device, the section heater with a thermostat and regulator, and the brooders and other appliances manufactured by the company were all covered by patents, the majority of which were the idea of Hugh M. Hall, the manager. The models and patterns were skillfully made by Charles Bentley.

The company started production just after being organized, and in 1906 took first prize at the Michigan State Fair held in Detroit.

Because of the high cost of production and the keen competition they were obliged to discontinue manufacturing in 1910.

The officers were: Dr. J. B. Bradley, President; H. C. Minnie, Vice President; N. A. Strong, Secretary-Treasurer; C. A. Benton, Superintendent, and H. M. Hall, Manager.

THE TRUE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Stock Racks and Bob Sleighs

In 1906, Thomas B. True of Rives Junction moved here and formed a stock company composed of Allen Crawford, J. Warren Sheldon and himself, for the manufacturing of a combination hay and stock rack. Mr. Crawford was the president, Mr. Sheldon the vice-president, and Mr. True the secretary-treasurer and general manager. Herbert Miller was made superintendent of the plant.

The irons used in the manufacturing of the racks were

patented by Mr. True, and cast by the Malleable Iron Company of Albion. The rack was conceded to be one of the best on the market and by its popularity a dozen men were kept on the payroll for many years.

Mr. True later patented runners for a bob-sleigh that was quickly knocked down, which made it easy to store. The latter article was very popular but motor trucks entered the field and were used in transporting lumber, logs and other bulky merchandise in large quantities and the bob-sleigh was naturally discarded except for farm use.

Mr. Sheldon withdrew from the firm and established a similar business for his son-in-law, Dorr Anderson, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. They bought their irons from the True plant.

In 1926 Mr. True disposed of the business to Owen Brownell of Albion, who formed a new corporation and devoted the entire output of the plant to the manufacture of power automatic dump boxes and a bread-wrapping machine, for both of which he held the patents. On account of the keen competition in their lines, they were unable to meet the price of their adversaries, so they folded up their affairs and closed their doors.

Frank Sanders, who was one of the heavy stockholders, reopened the plant and made an effort to manufacture accessories for an air-cooled automotive engine that had many possibilities, but he was unable to float a sufficient amount of stock for a project of such vast proportions as the manufacturing of parts for an automobile. Both ventures proved futile and those who had invested money took their losses gracefully and the firm name "The True Manufacturing Company" passed on to posterity.

THE BIG ROCK KNITTING CO.

William F. Hall, a native of Grass Lake, came here in 1917 and with his two sons, Lyle and Richard and Miss Jennie Bauer, formed a corporation known as the Big Rock Knitting Company, and manufactured sweaters and sox exclusively for a period of twelve years.

In 1929 he joined the Seneca Knitting Company of Seneca Falls, New York, and the firm was making rapid strides towards

success when the depression forced them to close their doors.

Mr. Hall invented a rug machine for the Seneca Knitting Company that wove the warp horizontally and the yarn vertically. It was known as the Woven-Knit Rug and it was hard to distinguish it from the hand-knit rug.

In 1933 he became affiliated with the John B. Davidson Woolen Mills and installed a knitting department in that institution which he had charge of up to the time of his passing, the output being confined to socks and caps.

Mr. Hall was a genius in the knitting line. He set up the machinery for the manufacture of anything he chose to knit. The Davidsons wanted a two-color cap to place on the market and he produced a machine that did the work perfectly, and their sales on this one article skyrocketed into the thousands.

There is no knowing how many different machines he patented which are in use in many knitting plants throughout the country today.

Next of kin that are living: Lyle of Charlotte, Richard of Lansing, and Mrs. Mary Hosler of this city.

BUILDING MOVERS

No place has had more publicity along this line than our little city. How familiar this slogan on a huge red-painted timber (one foot square by twenty feet in length) supporting white lettering: "The World Moves—So Does Raymer—Eaton Rapids." For over thirty years Floyd Raymer has been the foremost building mover in these parts. Structures of more than ordinary size did not daunt him. Charles McGilvra was associated with him up to the time of his death in September, 1950.

The first mover that is recalled by the writer was George W. Ford, who lived on West Plain Street, his traction being oxen and a windlass.

A little later Amer J. Jefferies, a Hamlin township farmer, came into prominence. Clyde Jefferies, a son, was associated with his father and was killed when a building they were moving settled down on him, and he was crushed to death. He was a fine dulcimer player, and with Eli Saums, who played violin, furnished music for dances in this locality for many years.

E. R. Claffin moved here about ten years ago and is busily engaged in this line of work.

THE EATON RAPIDS SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Eaton Rapids Savings and Loan Association was incorporated November 30, 1914, Charles M. Hunt being elected president and Don B. Pember secretary and treasurer.

It was started at a time when many persons were contemplating building and it has been conducted in such a manner as to be solvent at all times. It has financed the building of homes of scores of people for an amount in excess of \$300,000.

At the present time it has several thousands of dollars in loans on good property and a like amount in reserve.

The present officers are: John D. Birney, President; Harold A. Pettit, Vice-president; and Heileman O. Miller, Secretary-Treasurer.

WAREHOUSE FOOD LOCKERS

It was in 1938 when food lockers began to spring up throughout the state that J. Manley Card purchased the H. M. Hurd cold storage building on Jackson Street from Harry Mohrmann, receiver for the Michigan State Bank, and installed 100 cold storage units for customers.

In connection with the food lockers he operated a self-serve grocery, and the two became a popular trading center.

At the beginning of World War II when rationing came into vogue, once more people flocked to his warehouse to procure locker space for all kinds of meat, fowl and fish, and as a result Mr. Card was obliged to install 600 more units, which were soon filled.

One of the outstanding services rendered by the owner to his customers, who brought their different kinds of meat to the warehouse, was expert cutting of the meat which they wrapped, marked as to the kind and amount inclosed in each package, and placed in the locker.

In 1945 after the close of the war, his son Harry, who had served his country and received his honorable discharge from the Army, joined his father in the business and relieved him from

the active management of it. Mr. Card died May 22, 1949.

Next of kin living are his wife Imah; son, Harry Card; and daughter, Mrs. Helen Hovis.

THE HAMMANS

Eaton Stamping Company

Fred Hamman, a native of Indiana, moved here in 1897. He is of German extraction; his ancestors were mechanics in different fields. Some worked in architecture, others with machinery, even to the precision technique in watch building.

Fred might be termed a "natural," as through inheritance he appears to be conversant with almost everything manufactured. Practically nothing daunts him. He has been confronted with so many diversified contraptions for repair that he has been dubbed the "fix-it-man."

He assisted Charles Benton on some of the more complicated units of the Bradley Incubator, and Hugh M. Hall in perfecting his Air Condition Cabinet. For anyone in trouble he usually supplies the magic touch. He operated a garage in connection with the Bromeling Ford Agency, and was repair technician at the Big Rock Knitting Mills.

His services for general repair work became so much in demand that he opened up a machine shop which he operated until 1937. Then he and his son Lyle, who had just finished school, began manufacturing wooden truck bodies, but later suspended this work because repair work demanded most of their time.

Lyle is a chip-off-the-old-block, a genius. He has had no college training, just the school of hard knocks. He observes and preserves the super qualities exhibited and brought into practice by his father in their daily work. The Eaton Stamping Company was formed and incorporated in 1940.

Carl, a foster son, graduated in manual training at the Ypsilanti State Normal, had taught several years in Kendallville, Indiana, and at the suggestion of his father, resigned his position with the schools and joined the firm.

During World War II, they had contracts with the Government for several different articles in connection with war ma-

chinery, but in addition to that, they manufactured several million discs for the recording and radio machine produced by the Wilcox-Gay Corporation in Charlotte.

Lyle patented a fish pole holder. Over 200,000 have been placed on the market with several thousand more on order. He has other patents pending which, when granted, will double their production.

Several flattering offers have been made to him by large corporations, but he prefers to develop the company he helped organize.

The officers: Fred Hamman, President; Lyle Hamman, Vice-President, Chief Engineer and Manager; Carl Hamman, Superintendent of Production, and Mitchell Hultz, Secretary-Treasurer.

In May (1951) they opened up a \$250,000.00 plant to take care of their increasing business.

THE AIR WASHER CORPORATION

The Air Washer Company was incorporated in 1942 and started production in Portland, Michigan, moving here in 1945, purchasing the True Manufacturing Company building on Haven Street.

The theory is something new in heating and the orders on the company's books demonstrate the fact that the trade was satisfied with the results where installation has been made.

The company manufactures oil and gas-heating furnaces. The system circulates and washes the air. It removes dust particles from the air and automatically distributes proper humidity in the home.

The officers: Charles L. Sprinkle, President and Manager, and Hugh M. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer.

THE GREEN NURSERY

As far back as the oldest resident can remember, the term horticulture generally brought to mind one person and that was William P. Green of Eaton Rapids Township. He came here in 1846 from Orleans County, New York, and settled in section twenty-nine of this township. On account of his wife's health their interests here were disposed of and they returned to New York where she passed away.

Mr. Green was born and raised in a locality that abounded in horticulture. He observed the planting, raising, culture, harvesting and sale of the fruit, and because of this environment became an expert in this line. He could see a future for this enterprise in Michigan, so returned here in 1857 and purchased over 200 acres in section thirty-two on either side of the Charlotte road (M-50) of James McQueen and immediately began to clear the land and build a home for his family. In 1878 he sold the 100 acres on the north side of the road to Ira Latson.

The ten acres west of the house were used exclusively for the planting, growth and development of nursery stock. All fruit trees developed by him were grown from the seed and none but the thrifty seedlings were saved. When hostilities began with the South, he had 200,000 apple trees ready for planting. He didn't want to lose them so concluded to make a sacrifice. He procured the services of John T. Sweezy, a young man in the village, to undertake the task of moving them. The trees were taken up, closely packed in a wagon box with the varieties segregated, and with straw placed snugly around the roots. They were thoroughly soaked with water and Sweezy was started on his mission.

The instructions to him were, "Sell to everybody. If they haven't the money, take their note. The price is ten cents per seedling." As a result, nearly the entire stock was disposed of and Mr. Green suffered very little loss.

In those days the Baldwin apple was very popular and he planted ten acres of this variety, for which there was a ready market. Another plat contained practically every variety of apples, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, berries, and currants. Green's farm became a mecca for fruit lovers; the majority of all orchards within a radius of many miles were purchased from the Green Nursery. Arthur worked with his father and became very proficient in horticulture, but the raising of crops on the balance of the farm was left largely to him. In the fall they were large fruit exhibitors at the State, West Michigan, and the few County Fairs that were instituted at that time, and they came home with premiums and prize money galore.

Mr. Green and his son were experts in the judging of fruit;

their judgment was sought and depended upon as to the care of orchards and the selection of the most profitable varieties of fruit to plant. Arthur did judging at many fairs outside of the state. As a rule the orchards in those days contained the following: Summer—Red Astrakhans, Yellow Harvest, Tallman Sweet, Sweet Bows; Fall—Seek-no-further, Pippin, Snows; Winter—Spies, Baldwin, Rhode Island Greenings and Russets, most of these varieties being foreign to the growers of today.

This information was furnished the writer by Arthur P. Green. Next of kin that are living are Arthur P. Green, Mrs. Jennie Wolford of Eaton Rapids, and her children, John Wolford of Jackson, Mrs. Mary Lane, Fitchburg, and Mrs. Nova Kenney of Eaton Rapids.

Mr. Arthur Green was born September 6, 1861, and is the oldest person that has lived continuously in Eaton Rapids township, his age being 88 years at this time (1949).

Mr. and Mrs. Green (nee Dora Underwood) observed their sixty-ninth wedding anniversary May 14, 1950.

Mr. Green died December 24, 1950.

THE HORSELESS CARRIAGE and the Origin of the Steering Knuckle

This was, in all probability, the most important contribution to the great automotive industry and was originated and first used within the bounds of Eaton County.

Very few people know the origin of the steering knuckle on an automobile. This knuckle is composed of several small gadgets assembled and attached to the front axle to which the backing plate of the front wheels is connected. It operates from the steering wheel and eliminates the fifth wheel so essential in the functioning of all horse-drawn vehicles.

Chancey Britten (a cousin of Rush Britten), an Eaton township farmer, came forth with the idea and hereby lies a tale to unfold.

It was in the late '80's when Ransom E. Olds was manufacturing gasoline engines in Lansing. The firm was known as the Olds Engine Works. Mr. Olds was experimenting in the building

of a horseless carriage at this time, and hearing of Mr. Britten's new steering device called on him to ascertain its feasibility.

When Mr. Olds perfected his "Merry Oldsmobile," this new device was undoubtedly used and was perhaps one of the factors that made his automobile so popular. The writer does not wish to convey the idea that Mr. Olds was underhanded in this matter in the least.

In all probability he grasped the idea from this crude exhibit of a steering knuckle, perfected a more practical one, had it patented and capitalized on it, which is no more nor less than good business; further that it is universally used on all makes of cars. The writer does not vouch for the above statements—merely hearsay.

The writer was visiting a few days with relatives in Brookfield township when one afternoon we noticed a vehicle coming down the road without a horse. It turned into the yard. It was driven by Mr. Britten who explained the workings of the contraption, after which he backed it out and returned home.

This was over sixty years ago and I have been obliged to dig down in the deep recesses of my brain, assemble the parts, and in my crude way give my conception of the first horseless carriage I ever saw in motion.

I am no mechanic but hope my efforts in presenting this new horseless carriage with its accessories will be accepted by the reader as I remember it.

Here goes!—It was an ordinary single buggy. The fifth wheel had been made stationary.

The Steering Knuckle—Two medium heavy barn hinges (I presume) were heated, tempered and bent, resembling the wish-bone of a chicken, the ends being four or five inches apart. That portion of the front axle that supports the wheels was cut off.

The inside of the hinges (near the end) was fastened securely to the axle, and that portion of the axle upon which the wheel revolved was cut off and attached to the outside of the hinges.

A steel bar connected the two outside leaves of each hinge. In the center of this bar another piece of steel was welded through a slot in the floor board. This was the steering device. For a

right turn this bar was shoved to the right. The right hinge would open and the left hinge close. In the opposite direction—vice versa. The hinges opened and closed like a pair of pincers.

The Traction—The rear axle was made to turn and the rear wheels were securely fastened to the axle and turned with it. On the end of the two brackets that emanate from the reach, housings that encased those points of the axle were attached.

The Power—This is also rather difficult to explain fully. A carpenter's boring machine was firmly anchored in front of the seat. The bit and the small sprocket wheels that furnished the power and operated the same as the differential on an automobile were both removed and a larger sprocket wheel (about six inches in diameter) replaced the smaller one. Another sprocket wheel (about twenty inches in diameter) was fastened securely to the rear axle. These were connected with an endless chain. There were two handles to this device that were operated with the hands, similar to peddling a bicycle.

I hope the reader can glean some information from the humble way I have tried to depict the operation of the first horseless carriage I ever saw.

The writer called on Jay Huber in Charlotte, as he is one of the few persons living besides the writer that saw this horseless carriage. After reading my conception of its operation to Mr. Huber, he said, "Scott, I don't believe anyone, outside of Mr. Britten, could give a better description of this horseless carriage than you have."

ADDITIONAL PIONEER INDUSTRIES

In the 1840's, there were three asheries doing a nice business in the production of black salt, pot and pearl ashes and saleratus, the largest one being located on the present site of the George Pettit Sr. home. This was an outlet where farmers, after burning off a fallow, could exchange their ashes for commodities.

A tannery was located on State Street, just east of the river on the property known as the Eugene Strank home.

Jake Hale operated a stove factory on North East Street, probably adjacent to the stream that emanates from Miller Dairy

Farms at the bend of the road.

A brick plant was operated by Ira Latson and Orville Rose on the former's farm, across from the Art Green home. Brick for the First Methodist Church was fired at this kiln in 1880. Mrs. Blanche Doak is a niece of Mr. Rose.

A saw mill owned by Wat Garton was located on the Foote and Custer site.

Hayner & Seelye (Nelson A. & Stirling) manufactured washing machines.

A. C. Morrell operated a wagon shop on the site now occupied by "The Mascot." Later a cooper shop was conducted there by Tom Bromeling.

A. Harwood in 1842 contracted to build the First Methodist Church for \$800. This price seems ridiculously low, but the present original brick church cost only \$8,000.00 ready for seating.

The former store that occupied the present site of the C. M. Hunt & Son building (Kroger Store) was brought here from Spicerville. It was moved on property across Mill Street and used for storage, and razed in 1947; it was probably 110 years old.

In the early '70's, John Waldron built a livery stable at the intersection of Hall and West Hamlin Street. It was burned, then rebuilt and in 1880 sold to J. J. Johnson of Hudson. It was purchased by Rhead Brothers (Robert and Benjamin) from Wayne in 1884. (Mrs. Walter J. Uhr is a daughter of the former.) It was sold to Dr. E. J. Hutson and William McClear of Stockbridge in 1910. This partnership was dissolved, Mr. McClear continuing the business. It was sold to C. J. Moore who erected the building in 1922.

Birney Brothers built a livery stable in 1870 at the intersection of Hall and West Knight Streets. This was later owned by Charles Bentley (grandfather of Marie Shoefelt-Adams), Claude Stringham and Dr. E. J. Hutson who sold it to the city in 1937.

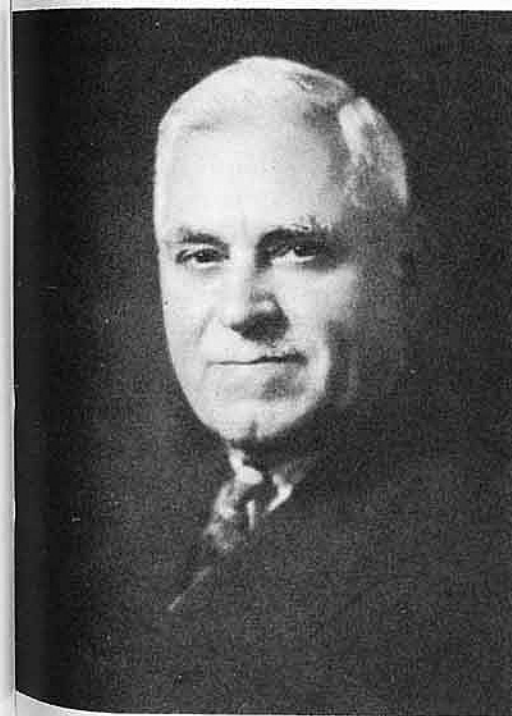
To give the reader some idea of the number of persons that were attracted to our little village during the mineral water craze, I submit the following list that had trades: From fifty to ninety per cent of the persons, in these different classifications, had moved here by 1872.

Carpenters: Townley Brown, Edward C. Buckland, Lewis P. Carpenter, Charles, Lyman and Randall Champlin, Otis V. Cranson, Eliab Dunbar, E. P. Britten, George W. Ford, John Hoag, Peter C. Leisenring, John Leisenring, William Moyer, Albert U. Norris, John Osborn, Calvin Powers, Oliver L. Powers, Benjamin Pratt, Orrin F. Rose, Roswell Sanders, Elias Sloat, Albert Sloat, Christian Smith, Lee Swift, Hiram H. Ward, Henry Wells, John W. Wilson, David D. Wonders, Asa Worden, George W. Wilder, Stirling Seelye, Nelson A. Haner, Marcus Lane, Charles B. Fowler, Sr., Linus Fowler, Irwin Scott, Fayette Champ-
lin, Adelbert Forward, Orrin J. Peterson, Glen Peterson, William Pinch, John Yost, Everett Lease, Calvin Cole, and Richard Hall.

Masons: Philip Ashley, Hiram J. Mason, Samuel Morris, James Burdick, Charles Brown, Charles McFall, Michael Sprinkle, Fred Rouse, Shadrack Rouse, William Rusco, Joseph Rolph, John Stewart, Robert Pangborn, George Russell, William, Liberty, Byron, William, and Benjamin Hicks, and Floyd Walling.

Painters: William Casper, Charles Gardner, J. G. Larcen, E. B. Spears, Charles Morse, Fred Hartson, Nathaniel Hyatt, Otis F. Finch, George B. Cowan, Roy Corbin, Sidney Robertson, Virgil Corbin, George Egan, F. A. Crocker and Jesse Crocker.

Blacksmiths: Charles Dunbar, William Dunbar, John George, William Prine, Lester R. Whitaker, Harry Winters, Henry Woodruff, Eugene Woodruff, William Woodruff, Frank Miller, Sandy Bostwick, Louis Wack, Dan McKenzie, Ab Smith, Henry Allen, Jacob Woods, John Woods and Thad Slaight.



UPPER LEFT: Samuel Horner, founder of the Horner Woolen Mill

UPPER RIGHT: His eldest son, Charles

LOWER LEFT: Edward Horner

LOWER RIGHT: Will Horner

THE PROFESSIONS

MEDICAL

Amos Knight, M.D.

Amos Knight, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Knight, was born in Middlebury, Ohio, in March, 1835. He moved with the family to Spicerville in 1836 and received his early education in the public schools here.

He enlisted at the outbreak of the Civil War, was connected with the Medical Corps and served under the late Doctor Nancreed of Detroit. He became quite proficient as an assistant to the Doctor, especially in surgery, and made the decision at that time to become a member of the medical fraternity. He held diplomas from the Universities at Ann Arbor, Chicago, Cleveland, and New York and had a very fine practice up to the time of his death.

The next of kin is his only daughter, Mrs. Genevieve Ballione of Washington State.

Samuel M. Wilkins, M.D.

Samuel M. Wilkins was born in Baughman, Ohio, August 16, 1836, and was a descendant of patriotic and distinguished ancestors. His parents each had grandfathers in the Continental Congress. His grandfather, John Wilkins, served in the Revolutionary War; his father, Samuel Wilkins, volunteered as a soldier in the second war between the United States and England and he, in 1862, enlisted in the One Hundred and Second Regiment, Ohio Infantry, in the conflict with the South. His parents died when he was thirteen years of age.

When he was forced to shift for himself, he was intent on obtaining an education. He worked on farms during the summers and attended school in the winter. By sheer determination he finally reached that degree of proficiency that he was able to enter the teaching profession himself.

His health failed and since he was desirous of visiting California, he and his brother, T. J. Wilkins, crossed the plains with an ox team in 1859. They were over five months enroute, many times narrowly escaping starvation and the tomahawk and scalping knife of the Indians. They followed mining for a couple of years and then returned to Canal Fulton, Ohio, where Samuel entered the office of A. Hantz, M.D., to take up medical studies. The war cut this ambition short, but when he was mustered out in 1865, he again sought a medical career and attended a course of lectures at Starling Medical College and Charity Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, from which he received the degree of M.D. in 1866. He later was honored with the ad eundem degree from the University of Wooster, Ohio, in 1871. He moved here in 1866 and was engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery until his demise.

He served on the school board and the common council and was President of the Village in 1877. He also held the office of President of the Eaton County Medical Society and was Surgeon for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern and the Michigan Central Railways.

Politically, he was a Republican and in 1878 he was elected to the House of Representatives and re-elected in 1880. In 1893 he represented the 15th Senatorial District in the State Senate.

On October 28, 1869 he was married to Mrs. Frances G. Montgomery, widow of Lieut. E. A. Montgomery, who fell in the defense of his country on the bloody field of Chickamauga. The Wilkins were blessed with two children, Lizzie G. and Charles M. The latter died when but a small lad. Lizzie married and moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and has not been heard from in many years.

Allen C. Dutton, M.D.

David Dutton of Oneida County, New York, moved his family to Michigan in 1834, and settled in Dexter, Allen being ten years of age. In 1837, the family took up their residence in Livingston County, where the young son attended school, later going to the University of Michigan. He taught school for a

brief period and commented with pride that the late Hon. Edwin B. Winans, former Governor of Michigan, was once his pupil.

He graduated from the Western Reserve Medical College in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1848, hanging out his shingle in Stockbridge. In 1856 he moved to this village and operated a drug store in conjunction with the large practice he attained.

It has been said that Dr. Dutton made a small fortune by selling quinine to the government during the Civil War. The writer sees this as nothing but an example of good business practice. At any rate, he was a wealthy man, used his money wisely, helped the poor, was civic-minded and was a big asset to the community.

In 1873 he withdrew from the drug business when he and a partner engaged in the banking and mercantile business (under the firm name of Dutton and Williams) conducted in the building now occupied by the Gamble Store.

In 1877 he directed his attention to organizing the First National Bank, which was chartered September 18, he being its first vice-president. The affairs of his private bank were soon liquidated.

Dr. Dutton became a member of the First Congregational Church in 1866, and was a deacon and its treasurer at the time of his death, he having held these posts for more than thirty years. He died October 29, 1899, and the entire community mourned the loss of its best-known and most popular citizens.

William Willoughby Derby, M.D.

William Willoughby Derby, a native of Ohio, moved to Michigan with his mother, following the death of his father.

He was a talented musician, having played the violin from early boy-hood, and during this period of his life played on a "show-boat" plying up and down the Mississippi River. Later he studied in Boston and other musical centers in the United States, and achieved a place in the artists' class.

After his marriage in 1839 to Harriet Hart (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hart, pioneers in Eaton township,) he decided to study medicine, and the young couple moved to Ann Arbor

where he graduated with high honors from the University of Michigan. Mrs. Derby studied with her husband in some subjects in order to become helpful to him when the services of a nurse were required.

They returned to this village where he entered partnership with Dr. Charles N. Hayden, who later moved to Lansing, leaving the young physician on his own. He practiced successfully for fifteen years and up to a few days before his passing.

Dr. Derby was a true doctor of the "Old School." He never knew when his day's work was done. No snow drift was too high, no mud too deep, no hour too late that would cause him to falter when a human life was at stake. The fee he might receive for such services was of secondary consideration and very often he knew a call of this nature was gratuitous.

One stormy wintry night a faint knock was heard at the doctor's door; when he opened it there in the snow stood a barefoot boy who had frantically run out into the night to find a doctor for his mother who was very ill. The lad was taken in, warmed, fed, and then tucked away in warm blankets as he and the doctor sped over the snow, through the frosty air, in the one-horse sleigh to the bed-side of the mother. This episode had a bearing on the young lad's mind, and without a doubt changed all of his future plans, for when his mother was restored to health he decided to be a doctor. He graduated from the University of Michigan, hung out his shingle in this city, and was a prominent physician until his death. His name—Dr. John Milton Gallery.

DR. DERBY'S CROUP MIXTURE BORN

Late one afternoon when Dr. and Mrs. Derby were driving to Charlotte, a farmer called to them and asked the doctor to see his little daughter whom the Charlotte physicians had pronounced incurable. Dr. Derby agreed that the child was afflicted with a serious case of membranous croup and he had slight hopes of its recovery. However, he put together all of the ingredients he had with him that might be beneficial in this emergency. The child was soon better and recovered in a short time. When they reached their destination the doctor hastened to record and proportion the ingredients, making the prescription that

was later known as Dr. Derby's Croup Mixture—now called Dr. Derby's Cough Medicine.

Dr. Derby's office was built on the same lot as his home, now known as the Normerin, and after the discovery of this meritorious remedy he enlarged his quarters and manufactured the medicine himself, using only fresh herbs and tinctures from the Bellevue Gardens in New York. This remedy is known all over the United States and Canada and has cured thousands of similar cases. At the height of its popularity and use, Dr. Derby passed on.

A company was formed and the business was well carried on at first, but later a loss to the family and to the community resulted.

Oscar Jackson of Lansing purchased the prescription and the medicine is still on the market, and is manufactured by the Parke-Davis Company in Detroit. He sold the formula to Robert Collins of Charlotte, who supplies the trade with the popular cough remedy.

Dr. and Mrs. Derby's only child is Miss Mary Derby now living in Charlotte.

James Bray Bradley, M.D.

James Bray Bradley, a native of Laingsburg, Shiawassee County, was born November 19, 1858. He came to this city in 1880 as a registered pharmacist, and was employed in the Hamilton Brothers Drug Store.

He was intent on a medical career and graduated from the Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1886, returning here and starting practice. He enjoyed a lucrative practice and, being desirous of further study, took a post-graduate course in New York City. He was physician and surgeon of the Grand Rapids division of the Michigan Central Railroad for many years. He served the city twice as its mayor.

He was an ardent Republican politically and in 1904 was elected Auditor General of the State and served two terms. He aspired to the highest office in the State and was defeated by a small margin in the primaries in 1908 by Governor Fred M. Warner.

The next of kin are Mrs. Bray Bradley-Webster of this city and Chester P. Bradley of New York City.

The Stimson Hospital

The erection of this building dates back to the '70's. It was built by John T. Swezey and for years was known by that name, even after it was acquired by Fred Spicer, who signed notes with Mr. Swezey, conducting a hardware business at that time. The Swezey venture did not prove very successful, and in order to protect his loan Mr. Spicer got a deed to the residence, and at that lost heavily in the transaction. The Spicers moved there in the '80's, and the operation of the large farm at Spicerville was taken over by their son, F. Clay Spicer.

In 1918 Dr. Charles A. Stimson of this city and Dr. Francis M. Blanchard of Lakeview, classmates and graduates of the University of Michigan, conceived the idea of starting a hospital here. They interested Miss Harriet Chapman, a graduate nurse, in the project, and the three purchased the Spicer residence, remodeled it into a modern hospital, including a self-operating elevator, and it was given the name Harriet Chapman Hospital. It filled a long-felt want for the accommodations of doctors in their surgery and a much-needed health unit for the people of this community.

The hospital suffered a great loss when Dr. Blanchard was taken in 1919. He had just completed an operation and approached the elevator to go down to his office. The door opened, he stepped into the darkness, supposing the elevator to be at that floor, and fell three stories, crashing on the concrete floor in the basement. He was instantly killed. The hospital was then operated by the two remaining owners, until the passing of Mrs. Harriet Chapman-Brunk, which occurred in December, 1930. During the interim she had married Samuel Brunk.

At the passing of Dr. Blanchard, Dr. Harry J. Prall, a graduate of the University of Michigan, joined the staff and remained here for ten years, when he went to Lansing where he has been very successful as a surgeon and a practitioner.

Dr. Stimson carried on with the able assistance of Miss

Bernice Bowman, a practical nurse, who took over the management and fortified herself with a couple of registered nurses. Dr. Stimson died in 1943 and his will designated his widow, Mrs. Isabelle Stimson, and Miss Bowman as beneficiaries and co-owners. Miss Bowman conducted the hospital in a very business-like manner, although there were no doctors connected with its operation.

In 1948, Dr. Bert VanArk, a graduate of Rush Medical College of Chicago, his nephew, Dr. Herman VanArk, who has a diploma from Marquette University of Milwaukee; and Dr. Albert H. Meinke, a graduate of the University of Michigan, purchased the hospital, moved their offices there, and are located on the first floor.

It is perhaps one of the best-equipped institutions for its size in this vicinity. It has sixteen beds, eight bassinets, the latest type of operating instruments, an oxygen tent, an expert technician in the laboratory, a dietitian to prepare the food, and a Picker X-Ray machine of the latest design was installed in 1947.

It is now known as the Stimson Hospital in honor of Dr. Charles A. Stimson, one of its founders, who is responsible for placing a health unit at the disposal of the people, and it compares favorably with similar institutions in cities many times our size.

Dr. D. L. Wood, The Quack

Every community gets "taken in" by some smooth artist or operator at one time or another and our little village was no exception.

It was in the early '80's when a very smooth gentleman moved his family here, purchased a home (now owned by Dr. E. J. Hutson), opened an elaborate office and did extensive advertising.

He was a fine-looking chap, sported a well-trimmed beard, wore a silk hat and a fine, well-tailored Prince Albert suit of clothes, and drove the best-matched team of horses in this vicinity.

His victims were the gentler sex and he selected principally those that had money. His racket was of a hypnotic nature, and when his patients were under this spell he would "fleece them"

of all the money available at the time; he was practically "going to town."

Some ladies even went to the bank and drew out money. One gentleman, attempting to reconcile his bank account, ran on to a discrepancy, and on a thorough investigation found his wife had issued a check for the amount of the difference. She admitted drawing the money to pay the "doctor" for services rendered.

When this incident was brought to light it spread like wild-fire and caused a furor among the populace. The query was how many had been victimized by this clever manipulator.

He resided here about five years, and must have "played his cards" well not to be detected in his little scheme and his method of operation sooner. He did not confine his practice here, but drove to near-by villages and no doubt found many "suckers" that fell for his line of "bunk."

Realizing his "jig was up," he evaporated from our midst after making some restorations to his victims, upon the order of the Court.

Other Doctors

At the close of the Civil War, David H. Long attended lectures at a medical school in Cleveland, Ohio, and was granted permission to practice medicine as a homeopathic physician.

His son, Fred H. M. Long, graduated from the University of Michigan in the 1890's, and built up a large practice here which he enjoyed up to the time of his death in 1929.

Alden G. Sheets, a native of Eaton County, a graduate of the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery in 1896, came here in 1898 and gained a large practice. No doubt he was one of the best-read men here of his time, not only in his profession, but current topics and the Bible. He was an orator, a fluent talker and a forceful debater. He passed on in 1942. Next of kin living is Alden Jr. in California and Betty Sheets Webster of this city.

Don V. Hargrave was graduated from the University of Michigan and located here after World War I in which he

served. He was a thorough student in his chosen profession and had a fine practice. During his tenure of office as Health Officer, he did more for the sanitation of our city than any other person who ever held that position. He promoted the installation of our present system of destroying sewage. He died in 1949. Next of kin living—a daughter, Margaret.

Clarence Williams was a native of Brookfield township, this county, and was graduated from the University of Michigan. He is one of the leading physicians and surgeons in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Dr. Thomas Wilenski, a native of Canada, graduated from the University of Western Ontario and opened an office here in the early 1930's. He was intent on being a surgeon and took post-graduate work in several universities and hospitals in the East, is now located in Lansing, and is one of the successful surgeons in this section of the state.

Other members of the medical profession are: C. H. Hayden, C. N. Metcalf, Dr. Seymour, George K. Smith, Hiram Walter, Mary A. W. Williams, W. W. Williams, Henrietta A. Carr, Arthur E. West, C. Ward Ellis, Wilson Canfield, Dr. Kiplinger, William H. Enders, Carlton Dean, E. E. Overfield, J. W. Irwin; Chiropractors: Edward G. Grandy and H. V. Martin; Osteopath: Don F. Hutton.

Dentists: Solomon R. Fuller, Lloyd Davis, Seymour Porter, William H. Smith, P. J. Sullivan, Frank C. Arnold, Jay C. Arnold, Dr. Williston, Will L. Hurd, William Puffenberger, Charles J. Winder, Clarence H. Moyer, J. R. Maxey, M. A. Vance, and R. D. Wood.

LEGAL

AUSTIN BLAIR—Mr. Blair moved to this village in 1842. The same year he was elected County Clerk and many times he made the trip to Charlotte on foot. He lived in the house now located across the alley from the Max Smith residence. (At this time the house faced South Main Street and occupied the lot where the Smith Electric Shop operates.) At the expiration of his office, he returned to Jackson and continued his law

practice. He was a gifted orator and his services were in demand in all parts of the country. In 1860 he was elected Governor, served two terms and is known as Michigan's "Civil War Governor." A large monument erected to his memory graces the front of the State Capitol at Lansing. There he stands in his favorite pose.

HENRY A. SHAW—Few men have held the distinction in central Michigan which Henry A. Shaw did during his day. He was born in Vermont. He came to Portage County, Ohio, with his parents in 1836, and entered the law office of Francis W. Tappen in Revenna. Prior to his passing the bar examination he was engaged for several years in teaching school. His health failed and he was advised to get out in the open. After being admitted to the bar, he came to Michigan in 1842 with 850 sheep and a wagon load of goods. The sheep were disposed of easily in this village, Charlotte and Vermontville. He purchased several acres of land, mostly in the village of Eaton Rapids. He opened his law office, and almost from the first enjoyed a growing business founded principally on his fearlessness for right and on his consideration of his fellow men, which won for him the confidence of his neighbors. He was behind every civic movement for the betterment of his community, viz: the stage coach, both railroads, the development of the mineral wells and the building of hotels.

In 1857, '58, '59, '73 and '74, he was elected to the House of Representatives in the State Legislature. In 1857, '58, '73 and '74, he was chairman of the judiciary committee and in 1859 was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

As to his ability as a jurist the following tribute was paid him: "Few men have been instrumental in placing and retaining upon our statutes more measures of importance."

A few of the more important among the bills which he introduced and for which he procured passage are: a bill creating an independent Supreme Court, making the Probate Court a salaried office; a bill for the relief of religious societies; a bill for laying out of highways, under the constitution of 1857, which had not formerly been provided for; and a bill for the

intervention of grand juries.

Prior to his services in the Legislature he had served Eaton County in the Judge of Probate office for a period of eight years.

During the Civil War he served as Major of the Second Michigan Cavalry.

He had attained great success as a teacher of Blackstone and all law books in vogue at that period, and his fellow colleagues often spoke of him as "The Cooley of Central Michigan." He often referred with pride to the large array of eminent lawyers who had studied the profession with him, among whom were such men as O. M. Barnes of Lansing, I. M. Crane, Martin V. and Richard Montgomery of this city, O. F. Rice of Illinois, Anson Bronson of California, and many others scattered over the United States.

Next of kin is Mrs. Mildred Rulison, a granddaughter, of Clearwater, Florida.

I. M. CRANE—Admitted to the bar in 1860. He was a very bright and successful lawyer. He opened an office here but later moved to Lansing. He had lived there but a short time when he died at the age of thirty-five. He was a gifted orator who swayed the jury and his audiences almost at will.

ISAIAH M. CORBIN—Admitted to the bar in 1858. Before becoming a lawyer he taught school for many years and was a very clever mathematician. He created a wall chart divided into squares in which were placed different numerals. By this method he could work out the most difficult problems with ease. It was never adopted by any educational system, so when Justice Corbin passed out of the picture, that did also.

JOHN M. CORBIN—Admitted to the bar in 1870. He was without a doubt the financial wizard of all our attorneys. He was one of the prime movers in organization of the Eaton Rapids Cracker Company. He was also one of the organizers of the Michigan State Bank in 1884. Later he was elected President. Next of kin is a daughter, Mrs. Charles A. Hughes, of Detroit, whose husband is the Secretary of the Detroit Athletic Club.

JOHN WOOD—Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tillotson Wood, he was

born on the family farm in Eaton Rapids Township, the parents moving here from New York State in 1840. He was a student of Judge Shaw and passed his bar examination in 1873. He formed a partnership with Horace S. Maynard in 1880. There was a large colony of people from this locality who became imbued with the western fever in 1894, the majority of whom settled in the Dakotas. He selected Huron, South Dakota, and became a very prosperous lawyer. The next of kin is Dr. Tillotson Wood of Huron.

JOSEPH B. HENDEE—A native of Ohio, he came here with his college chum, Charles T. Fairfield, in 1888, at which time they became publishers of the Eaton Rapids Journal. They had graduated from Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, in 1887, Bachelor of Arts. In 1890 he was elected as Justice of the Peace and disposed of his interests in the Journal. He studied law with Isaiah H. Corbin and was admitted to the bar in 1892. He was very quiet and unassuming man with a pleasing personality and was not very easily moved by anger. The remark was made of him often that he was too much of a sentimentalist, too honest a man to accumulate wealth, as he settled many law-suits in his office. In 1917 during World War I, the citizens erected a tall flag pole at the principal square on Main Street. Everyone wanted a hand in this and he was no exception. The pole was about sixty feet in height and on the day of its raising, scores of men were present to assist. He complained of a pain in his chest after the pole had been set, was taken to his home and died shortly afterward. A hemorrhage was the cause. He and the Hon. Lawton T. Hemans were very warm friends, both being staunch Jeffersonian Democrats.

CARL O. MARKHAM—Taught school several years before studying law with John M. Corbin. He and Fred J. Slayton formed a law partnership, but this was dissolved when he was appointed to a clerkship in the Patent Office in Washington, D.C. Next of kin is a brother Harry A. Markham of El Paso, Texas, and one daughter, Mrs. Lucille McKee of Washington, D. C.

FRED J. SLAYTON—Also a student of John M. Corbin, conducted a law office here for many years. Next of kin is a son,

Walker Slayton, an officer in the U. S. Army.

HORACE S. MAYNARD—A native of Dimondale, he first studied in the law office of Tyler Hull in his home town and later in one at Lansing. He was admitted to the bar in 1877 and opened up his law office in this city in 1879. In 1888 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of this county and moved to Charlotte where he made a permanent home. He was a devoted Mason and a great student of the workings of the Craft. He gained wide recognition in the State Masonic Circles and was elected to the highest Office, Most Excellent Grand High Priest in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and Thrice Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters. He received his degrees in both the Blue Lodge and Chapter in this city, but affiliated with those bodies in his adopted city and at his death the Chapter was named for him. It is known as the Horace S. Maynard Chapter Royal Arch Masons. He was a Past Commander of Charlotte Commandery No. 37 Knight's Templar and it was largely through his efforts that the beautiful Masonic Temple was built. He also served the county as Judge of Probate for one term.

The two Maynard children have made names for themselves. Horace S. Maynard II, after his graduation from the University of Michigan, became the Secretary to Fred Fisher, of Fisher Body Company, made a success in a monetary way of the opportunities that confronted him and is a director in several industrial corporations in which he is financially interested. Vera, now Mrs. Willis L. Osborn of Atlanta, Georgia, graduated from Olivet College. She is a talented musician but achieved her greatest fame when her book, "There Were Two Of Us," was published.

HON. LAWTON T. HEMANS—He was a native of Aurelius Township, Ingham County, who attended school here, graduating in the class of 1884. He studied law in the office of John M. Corbin and later graduated from the University of Michigan. He was associated with Mr. Corbin, but a short time later he moved to Mason and made that city his home. He was an able attorney and his capability as an organizer soon gave

him state-wide recognition as a leader. Politically he was a Jeffersonian Democrat and became associated with Governors Woodbridge N. Ferris and William Comstock. To these three the destiny of that political party was, for many years, intrusted, and the true Jeffersonian principles were held intact. Like our beloved Joe Hendee, he was held in the highest esteem by his constituents, his home folks, and was looked upon by his fellow men as one who placed honor above all things and fought diligently for the betterment of all mankind. In the state election of 1908, he opposed Governor Fred M. Warner and was defeated by a narrow margin. He was a great reader and did a considerable amount of writing. His book, most highly regarded, was entitled "Life and Times of Stevens Thomas Mason, The Boy Governor of Michigan," published in 1920.

ARA WELDON—He was born in the village of Springport, Jackson County. The family moved to Hamlin Township, Eaton County, in 1889. He and his brother Charles graduated from the city schools in 1897 and received their diplomas from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1900. Charles never practiced his profession, but returned to the farm. That same fall Ara opened a law office in Benton Harbor. He won the confidence of the people and was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace, his tenure of office being thirty years. Benjamin Purnell, better known as "King Ben of the House of David," was brought into his court at different times. He returned here in 1934, was elected City Commissioner in 1940, serving one term, and in 1944, was elected Justice of the Peace.

G. ELMER McARTHUR—Born in Irving, he moved with the family to this city in 1893 and on account of their limited means, his education was acquired the hard way. His father, Ira W. McArthur, and his uncles on both sides of the family were expert coopers. He naturally learned the trade, mostly by observation, but also by application, and when still a very young man, he could "take his heat" (a cooper expression) with the best of them. At the time the Lincoln Base Ball Club,

(a kid team) was organized, he was asked to join them. Being a southpaw, he strengthened the pitching staff materially. In 1898 when his class in the local high school were graduating, his diploma lay in a vacant chair. This tribute was paid him as he had enlisted in the United States Army and was serving his country during its conflict with Spain. He has never known the meaning of the word fear, a fact which was thoroughly demonstrated on a May afternoon in 1916. Grover Bromley, a teacher in the city schools, and two students, Ferris Hall, and Burr Twichell, had been on a canoe trip up the river. On their return they carried their craft around the power dam and launched it, but they were too near the back current and the canoe was sucked into the whirling waters and capsized, throwing the occupants into the river. The water flowing over the dam kept them submerged most of the time. Mr. McArthur heard the cries and rushed to the scene. Although unable to swim, he tied a clothes line about his waist and jumped into the river in an attempt to rescue the unfortunate boys in distress. But for the quick action of Jay Raymer, a bystander, who threw a rope around his out-stretched arm by which he was drawn to shore, he would have lost his life. Bromley and Hall were drowned, but Twitchell was saved by use of a pulmotor. For his act of bravery Mr. McArthur was awarded a "Carnegie Medal."

In 1905 he finished his law course at the University of Michigan, opened up a law office here and has conducted it since that time, being very successful.

Mr. McArthur did not confine his efforts entirely to his law practice, but formed the Artificial Stone Company in partnership with his father, constructing miles of concrete curbing and sidewalks in the city and also bridges for different communities. He is a Republican and has served the city as City Attorney, Commissioner and Mayor. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1916 and served the following two years, but resigned to enter World War I. He introduced the "Bonedry" bill, and was responsible for its becoming law. He has always been a devout dry. In 1920 he was elected to serve the 15th District in the State Senate.

Next of kin is a sister, Mrs. Grace Bennett.

CLYDE I. WEBSTER—Older son of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram P. Webster, he was born here, graduated in 1895, and then attended the University of Michigan, completing the literary and law courses in that institution.

He went to Detroit and entered the law office of the late Don M. Dickenson.

A little later he formed a partnership with several attorneys, withdrawing from the firm when he received the appointment of Federal District Attorney for the eastern half of Michigan. This assignment was made possible by his esteemed friend, the Hon. Charles E. Townsend, then United States Senator. He was later elected to the Judgeship of the Circuit Court of Wayne County, in which office he has been retained for several years.

He is an exceptional orator, a fluent talker whose speaking engagements take him into many states. He is a student of Masonry and because of outstanding work in those bodies, especially in the Consistory, the coveted 33rd degree ring adorns his finger, an honor only attained by those whose untiring efforts have been beneficial to the craft. He is Past Potentate of Moslem Temple, ancient Order of the Mystic Shrine of Detroit, and Past Imperial Potentate of the United States.

Next of kin are his three sons, Clyde I. Jr., Charles, and Robert.

Other attorneys practicing law here were: George A. Armstrong, John H. Kimball, Michael Kinney, Charles S. Cobb, Walter K. Webster, Clarence H. Walker, Frank R. Warner, Thomas W. White, Elmer N. Peters, Harry Metcalf, Charles T. Hemans, George W. Watson, and Richard E. Robinson.

BANKING

There is no available record as to the time the first bank in our little village was started but there were four private banks in operation at different times before a regular chartered one was instituted.

In 1848 Rufus Hyde, who had a contract to furnish planks on

the old plank road from this place to Berryville (Jackson County), was forced into bankruptcy by the failure of the Pioneer Banking Institution but as to its location there is no knowledge—probably it was in Jackson.

The private banks were the Thompkins Bank, Morgan Vaughan's Bank, the Eaton County Bank—L. F. Harris, President and H. Z. Williams, Cashier. Dr. A. C. Dutton evidently purchased Mr. Harris' interest in the latter, as there was a banking house known as Dutton and Williams—Bankers. (In the photograph of the now John J. Miller Gamble store, the sign over the south door will substantiate this. Dr. Dutton stands in the doorway.)

As far as is known, these banks were fully liquidated except the one owned and operated by Morgan Vaughan. Its doors were closed in 1873 and very little money was received by the depositors.

First National Bank

There was dire need of a substantial banking institution here, and largely through the efforts of Dr. Dutton, the First National Bank was chartered. I quote: "*The First National Bank of Eaton Rapids was organized in the beginning of July, 1877, at the private bank of Bowne, Combs and Co. (Hastings, Michigan) with the following officers: A. J. Bowne, President; Dr. A. C. Dutton, Vice-president; F. H. DeGolia, Cashier; H. Z. Williams, Teller. The Board of Directors were: A. J. Bowne, Daniel Striker, George E. Goodyear (Hastings), F. H. DeGolia (Middleville), A. C. Dutton and Philip Leonard of this village and Allen Crawford of Springport township. The capital stock of the bank was \$50,000.*" Mr. DeGolia was interested with Mr. Bowne in a bank at Middleville and was made cashier of the local bank. H. Z. Williams as teller was associated with Dr. Dutton.

The bank was housed for many years in the building now owned by Caterino Brothers (formerly the Morgan Vaughan bank), until the present structure was built in 1915.

Like the majority of banks it closed its doors in 1933. Murray J. Martin was appointed receiver; the assets of the bank

were liquidated and all depositors were paid in full.

The bank was re-organized in 1934, the charter being granted February 15th, under the name of the National Bank of Eaton Rapids, with W. E. Webster as President; William Donahue, Cashier; Ed Florian, Assistant Cashier; Clare W. Greene, Teller. The present Board of Directors is: Martin Hansen, Richard Toncray, George F. Miller, Murray P. Stroud, George Pettit, Kenneth P. Williams, Ralph Blackmore and Howard Bentley. The officers are: Mr. Hansen, President; Mr. Williams, Vice-president and Cashier; Warren Meyer, Assistant Cashier; Mesdames Millie Greene and Fern Post, Tellers.

Michigan State Bank

The Articles of Association were filed July 22, 1884, organizing the Michigan State Bank of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, under the general corporation laws of the State of Michigan to carry on a business of banking.

At this time the application to organize State Banks was filed with the Secretary of State and the permission to operate was granted by that office. The State Banking Department was not established until 1887.

The following Board of Directors were elected: Horace H. Cobb, Hiram P. Webster, Charles S. Cobb, H. H. Hamilton, Joseph Carr, George W. Webster, E. S. Harris and Albert Rogers.

The Board elected as their officers, Horace H. Cobb, President; Hiram P. Webster, Vice-president; Charles S. Cobb, Cashier; H. H. Hamilton, Assistant Cashier.

The Board of Directors purchased the site of the Slocum Meat Market and erected the Michigan State Bank Building now owned by E. J. French where he operates his barber shop.

In 1890 the Cobbs disposed of their interests in the bank to John M. Corbin and H. C. Minnie, who were elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

The new officers elected by the Board were: John M. Corbin, President; H. P. Webster, Vice-President; H. H. Hamilton, Cashier; E. S. Harris, Assistant Cashier.

The quarters became inadequate for their volume of business and in 1921 the Board purchased the Vaughan Brothers

block (now the Municipal Building) and remodeled it into one of the finest and most convenient banking houses in central Michigan.

A rumor started that the bank was not solvent. A run had started on the bank; the cashier could see the hand writing "on the wall"; he called a meeting of the Board of Directors and told them what to expect, and offered the following procedure. He suggested that they close the bank and liquidate it, stating that the assets of the bank were as liquid as those held by the majority of other banks in the state. By so doing the bank building and equipment (involving approximately \$50,000.) could be saved and the stockholders would not be called upon to make good the amount of stock they held. (In other words, a 100% assessment.) Then when the affairs of the bank were closed, a new corporation could be set up with a smaller amount of capital stock and it could open its doors with a clean slate.

The majority of the Board of Directors were good business men and had made phenomenal success in their several occupations, but they turned a "deaf ear" on the cashier's suggestion, stating "We can weather the storm."

About \$50,000 was borrowed from other banks to satisfy the depositors, but it did not stem the tide and the Board, deeming it unwise to become further obligated, closed the doors December 11, 1931.

Harry H. Morman was appointed receiver. It was his first duty to repay the principal and interest to those banks that had befriended the Directors before the depositors could be remunerated.

The bank was in the process of liquidation under the receivership for a period of nine and a half years, that is until June 26, 1941, at which time the receiver was discharged and corporate existence of the bank was dissolved. The depositors received eighty-four cents on the dollar.

The Directors at the time of closing were: James H. Parks, John B. Davidson, W. W. Knapp, W. E. Webster, H. C. Minnie, Ahaziah Crane, Glen A. Speers, Ralph Blackmore, John J. Milbourn and Hugh M. Hurd.

The officers were: James H. Parks, president; John B. Davidson, Vice-president; Glen A. Speers, Cashier; John Dornan, Assistant Cashier.

THE ARTISTS

In writing the history of this community one cannot place too much stress on the artists that have lived here from time to time down through the years.

Those comprising this list are: Mesdames Zephia Osborn, Frankie Mumaugh, Addie Birney, Edith Minnie, Artie Hendee, Lena Vaughan, Helen Jane Kilgour, Gretchen Houck, Bertha Munn, Helen McClelland; the Misses Gertrude Hobart and Nellie Koff; and Warren Sheldon Anderson and Ed Corey.

Mrs. Osborn, whose maiden name was Lyman, was practically the dean of the group being qualified in both water colors and oils. The writer regrets that he has been unable to find out the place of her early abode, and where she studied, but be that as it may, she was a past master with the artist's palette and brush. In fact, she possessed diversified accomplishments, as she was an elocutionist, an actress and a gracious hostess.

In the gay '90's some lady in New York City gave a luncheon of more than fifty courses and it was heralded all over the nation. Mrs. Osborn gave a luncheon that included four or five or more courses. It was the elaborate function of the time locally.

Her paintings are classic. Most of the ladies listed above were her companions and at different times accompanied her on her jaunts, as her subjects were largely from nature. No one will ever know the vastness of her paintings, as she was absorbed in them almost constantly and gave them away cheerfully.

At her passing many persons were remembered with a picture (the writer was on the list) and the remainder were left to the city and now grace the walls of the City Library. The home of the Osborns was on the corner of Hall and King Streets.

Several of the ladies, Mesdames Minnie, Hendee, Vaughan and Osborn, did a considerable amount of china painting.

Miss Hobart studied in the Cooper Union Art Institute in

New York City and Mr. Anderson attended the same school. He is now doing commercial art work for one of the large department stores in that city.

Mr. Corey was one on whom nature bestowed real talent. He was very clever at pen and pencil drawing and the blending of water colors. His masterpiece was a battleship being tossed about in the surging sea.

Of the later generations, Mesdames Helen Jane Kilgour and Gretchen Houck are the only ones that are particularly active at this time.

Mrs. Kilgour, daughter of John T. and Jane (Hartson) Alt, is a graduate of McMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois, and Cranbrook Art School of Detroit. She has her Master's degree from Wayne University. She taught three years in the Art Institute and at present teaches drawing, painting, commercial art and costume designing in MacKinzie High School, Detroit. She is a member of the Woman's Painting and Sculptor Club and the Michigan Water Color Society.

Miss Nellie Knoff, a resident for the time being, was head of the Art Department at McMurray College and was Mesdames Kilgour and McClelland's instructor. She is busying herself at painting landscapes, having discovered many points of exceeding interest. Mexico has attracted her attention during many winter months.

Mrs. Houck, a daughter of Congressman Roy O. Woodruff, studied six years at St. Mary's Academy in Windsor, Ontario, Sister Anthony being her tutor. She also studied two years with Arthur Herzburg in Detroit and was a commercial artist in Hudson's Department Store for a period of ten years. Mrs. Houck is very clever at portrait painting.

MUSIC

Where is it going? Where has it gone?

That's what we old timers, musically inclined, are wondering. Mrs. Mable Blackett and the writer have discussed this lamentable condition of the art many times, and, by the way, she is closing her sixtieth year as an instructor on all string

instruments and the piano. She studied with some of the masters, did extensive work at Northwest University and held first chair in the violin section for several years at Bay View Chatauqua Assembly held in Bay View, Michigan, at their regular summer meetings. To commemorate the anniversary she is the recipient of six volumes of the Scribner Radio Music Library that depict the life work of the Masters from Bach (1680) to Gershwin (1940), an honor very fitting to one that has devoted her entire life to the Musical Fraternity.

This change in music came slowly but very effectively. Before the turn of the century syncopation crept innocently into the staff, yet became a dominant factor. This was closely followed by the ragtime and cake-walk, and special scores and a change in tempo for the tango and rumba. Now it's rhythm—ye Gods—what next?

How about the old folk songs—Stephen Foster's collection, and the light operas of Victor Herbert. Are they thrown into the discard?

Barber shop music is holding sway now. Those arranging parts must be thoroughly conversant in harmony and those quartets must have keen ears to render those diminished chords so perfectly.

Stepping back sixty years . . .

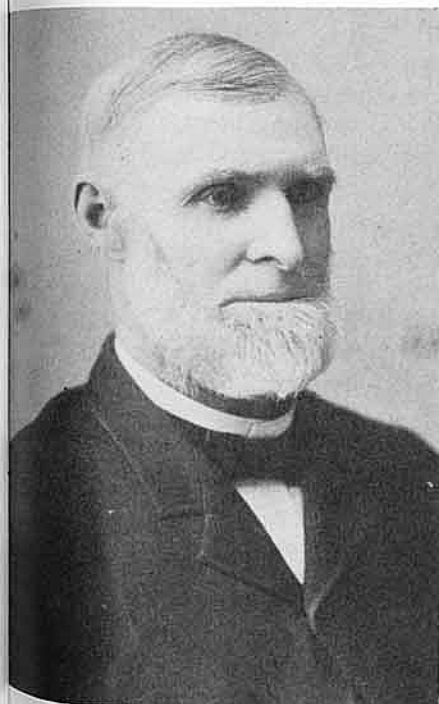
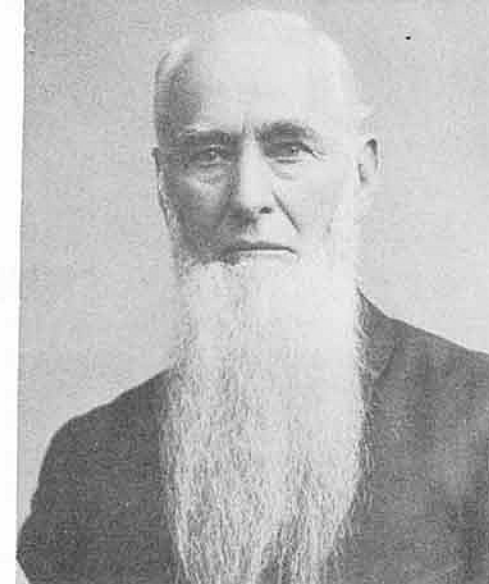
The Olivet College Male Quartette, its members being Keyes, Curtice, Brown, and Archer, were headliners in the state, and their rendition of "Annie Laurie" as harmonized by Dudley Buck was a masterpiece. Mr. Buck of Boston was in a class by himself at the console and had no pier as an improviser.

Other Local Musicians

Luther B. Huntoon, Teacher; Willoughby W. Derby, Violin Soloist; Asa B. Munn, Teacher-Director; Charles E. Gifford, Teacher; William F. Stirling, Director; Mrs. Morris Belnap, Soprano Soloist; Horace S. Maynard, Director; Ed Potter, Director; Mrs. L. T. White, Teacher-Accompanist; Miss Jeanette Hosler, Accompanist; Mrs. Marie Myers-Toles, Soprano Soloist; F. H. DeGolia, Director; D. Heber Hamlin, Teacher-Director; Herbert G. Lyon, Teacher-Director; W. Scott Munn, Director;

and Mrs. Maude Carr-Stimson, Teacher-Accompanist.

Also, Mrs. Mable Blackett, Teacher-Violin Soloist; Roy D. Wagner, Director-Cornet Soloist; Mrs. Marie White-Longmans, Contralto Soloist-Accompanist; Mrs. Orpha M. Cosgray, Teacher-Soprano Soloist; Mrs. Isabell Stimson, Teacher-Accompanist; Mrs. Hazel Marshall, Teacher-Accompanist; Mrs. Bernice Hunt, Teacher-Accompanist; Mrs. Alice Bell, Teacher-Accompanist; Mrs. Violet Miller, Teacher; Mrs. Norma Toncray, Accompanist; Mrs. Vivian Oxendale, Teacher; Miss Lois Mackey, Teacher; Mrs. Ima Card, Director; Mrs. Catherine LaSeney, Teacher-Soprano Soloist; Mrs. Pearl Balding, Teacher; William S. Horner, Baritone Soloist-Accompanist; Mrs. Helen Card-Hovis, Teacher-Soprano Soloist; Mrs. Lillian Loomis-Gillett, Accompanist; and Miss Nancy Heaton, Violin Soloist.



UPPER LEFT: William P. Green, pioneer nurseryman.

UPPER RIGHT: Dr. A. C. Dutton, prominent physician and banker.

LOWER LEFT: William Miller, State Senator, 1892-1893.

LOWER RIGHT: Dennis Miller, founder and president of Miller's Dairy Farms.

CHURCHES

The church and the school are two of the fundamental attributes of our constitution and to these two factors our nation is largely indebted for the rank or station in which it is held by the nations of the world. Yes, Christian religion and the school stand hand in hand and are a heritage passed down to us through the centuries, but we must refer to it at a more recent period—say 100 years. The following excerpts are taken from a brief history written by the late Darius B. Pierce in 1895.

The first meeting of any religious group in this immediate vicinity was held in 1836 at the home of Stephen Reynolds who settled that year on a farm in Section 35, Tyler township, now known as the Griffith neighborhood. As there was no other available place, the services were held at the Reynolds home. Three ministers, the Revs. Crane, Barr, and Turner, did the preaching, alternating on Sundays. It is authentically stated that the settlers were so enthused with the reality of having religious services in their newly-adopted country that they came for miles to attend the meetings and that as many as thirty-two found lodging at the Reynolds' home at one time.

The first Michigan Conference was held in Mansfield, Ohio, in 1836, and sent a missionary by the name of Kinnear into this part of Michigan. In Detroit the following year another conference was held when a minister by the name of Thomas was sent to take charge of the group in the Griffith neighborhood. In October that year he organized two classes, consisting of nearly a dozen families who met with the Reynolds family and a similar number who met at the home of Truman Barr. A log school house was finally completed in that locality and the services were held there. In September, 1838, the Conference in session at Ann Arbor sent Isaac Bennett as a missionary. The mission included the west half of Ingham and Jackson counties and all of Eaton County except Bellevue. In 1840, the Rev. Bennett came to Eaton

Rapids and organized an M. E. class and one of its most stalwart members was the beloved Aunt Elsie Rogers, whose life was an exemplary one and whose friendship was cherished by those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

The Griffith Church was built in 1855 and the dedicatory services were in charge of the Rev. Camburn.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The first religious group in our little village was the first Congregational Society, and the writer, being one of the Deacons of the Congregational Church, has at his disposal the complete records of the church since its foundation. These were used in writing the history of the church that was published when the one-hundredth anniversary was held October 25, 1943. The records are well-preserved, nicely written, with a good quality of paper and ink, and those who were assigned the duty of keeping them must have received excellent tutoring in the old Spencerian system of handwriting. These excerpts are authentic and taken from the records.

Eaton Rapids, June 15, 1843

At a meeting held at the house of Rufus Hyde for the organization of a church, the meeting was opened with prayer by J. W. Smith who acted as Moderator. Resolved: that we form ourselves into a church to be called First Congregational Church of Eaton Rapids, and the following persons gave a relation of their Christian experience, viz: Daniel Rand, Rufus Hyde, Isaiah Pierson, Aaron B. Munn, David Barr, Thomas Jewett, Nancy Munn, Julia Rand, Angeline Hart, Cornelia Pierson, Elmira Hyde, and Sarah Spencer.

On motion voted that those who are members of other churches be required to obtain letters of dispensation as soon as convenient. Adjourned to the 13th day of July at 2:00 o'clock P.M.

At the adjourned meeting the following were added to the list: Henry Kiper, Pauline Kiper, David Bradford, Isaac Cochran

and Girza Stirling (Seelye). Excerpts of the minutes of that meeting are given here:

October 25, 1843

At the meeting of the friends of Religion at the home of J. W. Smith had in pursuance of the statute of this state for the formation of religious societies, the Rev. J. W. Smith was called to the chair and the meeting opened by prayer. It was resolved that this society be called the "First Congregational Church Society of Eaton Rapids" and that the annual meetings be held on the last Wednesday in October.

The annual meeting date was subsequently changed to the second Friday in November. The first meetings were held in the school house located on the Daniel Gould property where the Stimson home now stands. The erection of the first church was begun in 1846 but the building was not entirely completed until the spring of 1855. It was located in the center of this block where the Dr. J. R. Maxey home is located. The trustees of the church purchased the lot where the church now stands in 1866 and moved the church that year, where it continued to do service until 1877 when it burned. The foundation of the new white brick edifice was laid the same year. Rev. Robert C. Bedford, the pastor at the time, labored earnestly in the matter of building, and for its style and appointments. It was completed the following year and dedicated March 13, 1878, with five cents in the treasury and the society free from debt. The cost of the church was between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

Laying the Cornerstone

The time of laying the corner stone was unique, being between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, by moonlight, but the moon failed to make an appearance; yet that didn't interfere with the ceremonies in the least. The program: music by the band; laying of the cornerstone by Messrs. James Gallery and Philip Leonard, Mr. Gallery representing the church, Mr. Leonard the village at large; prayer by Rev. J. M. Titterington; music

by the band; words of greeting and congratulations by Rev. W. Doust of the Methodist Church, followed by Rev. Titterington on the part of the Baptist Church and the Hon. Henry A. Shaw on behalf of the citizens, with a few words expressive of the gratitude of the Congregational Church by Rev. R. C. Bedford, pastor of the church; music by the band; prayer and benediction by Rev. Doust. The box was then placed in the stone by Mr. Gallery. The stone was the workmanship of Jesse DeCoursey, gotten up in fine style, having inscribed upon its face "First Congregational Church--1877. The box contained the Church Manual; a list of the officers and members of the church; a copy of the Eaton Rapids Saturday Journal; several state papers; the Constitution of the United States; the Declaration of Independence; Washington's Farewell Address; program of the Red Ribbon celebration of July, 1877; portrait of Washington wrought in silk at the Centennial; records of the old church; account of its burning; names of the architects, building committee, subscription committee, contractors; costs and dimensions; list of the village officers, business men, postmaster, doctors, lawyers, hotels; list of churches and ministers; all fraternal societies; membership ticket to Eaton Rapids Public Library; card of the Philorhetorian League and a copy of the program.

Hundreds of people from the village and community attended. Three events, not on the program, took place—two runaways (no casualties) and a religious fanatic who was determined to talk. Armed with a Bible and hymn book, he was fully equipped for an attack on the ministers, churches, Sunday schools and everybody. Later the band played so loudly he gave up his attack in disgust.

The windows in the church are of unique design. In the center of each is a medallion of red glass within which are old English letters in white. These were donated by the several families. On the north side are the following initials: J. W. S." J. Warren Smith, the first pastor; "M. H. A. V." Mary Helen Amelis Vaughn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Vaughn; "D. B.", David Bradford, one of the founders. On the south side: "R. H." Rufus Hyde, one of the founders in whose home the first meeting was held; "G. D. R." George D. Rushton, son of Dr. and Mrs.

James Rushton; "Z. B.". Zodac Beebe, an early member. In the library: "Ruth", daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Robert C. Bedford; in the front: "C. V. M. W." and "L. G. W.", son and daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Wilkins; large window in the balcony: "S. S.", donated by the Sunday School. The beautiful window over the pulpit "Christ Blessing Little Children" is a masterpiece and it is doubtful if there is another like it in the United States. Below in a red medallion is inscribed in white letters: "In Memoriam—Amelia," daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burnham.

Little Amelia and the writer were in a tableau at the Union Hall. It was a bitter cold night; she was thinly clad and caught cold. Pneumonia developed. The frail little beauty could not withstand the attack and in a few days was called home. She was a prime favorite in our juvenile Sunday School class and for several weeks there were many sad eyes at her absence.

One cannot lay too much stress as to the value the choir contributes to the success of the services. From 1880-1890 the choir was under the directorship of the late Horace S. Maynard with Mrs. L. T. White at the organ and Frank G. Baker supplementing with the cello and flute. It consisted of twenty voices: eight sopranos, five contraltos, four tenors, and three bases. They sang anthems from the masters and gave several oratorios in concert. I believe this inspired later directors to work diligently with their choirs, as they have always had a reputation as an excellent musical organization.

The Golden Jubilee of the First Congregational Church, the fiftieth year of its organization, was celebrated with appropriate ceremonies on July 13, 1893, and the occasion was one of great rejoicing by all of its members. Invitations were sent to all former pastors whose whereabouts were known, also to former members as well as those who attended services at the church, to be present at the Jubilee. The program: history of the church, reminiscences, letters from former pastors and greetings. Four of the former pastors of the church were present, viz: Reverends N. D. Glidden, Dwight P. Breed, H. H. Van Auken and Robert Martin. Of the original seventeen members there were none living at that time. Supper was served at the Grange Hall and at the evening meet-

ing addresses were given by Reverends Dwight P. Breed, N. D. Glidden and Robert Martin. The committee in charge of the Jubilee included: Rev. E. W. Miller, Dr. A. C. Dutton, Mrs. Eliza M. Gallery, and Misses Sarah H. Kellogg and Jeanette Hosler.

Those serving the church as pastors since its organization are: J. Warren Smith, J. S. Kidder, J. R. Stevenson, N. D. Glidden, J. S. Edwards, H. S. Hamilton, Philo R. Hurd, Robert C. Bedford, Dwight P. Breed, H. H. Van Auken, Charles A. Wight, Robert Martin, E. W. Miller, Wilto R. Yonker, John T. Walker, Andrew Bond, Frederick A. Dean, John Claflin, Louis B. Hardy, James King, Clyde H. Wilcox, Clark Cochran, Rudolph Roth, Lawrence Horning, C. William Punter, Matthew A. Vance, and Victor F. Brown.

The following have served as clerks: Thomas Jewett, David J. Bradford, David Barr, Aaron B. Munn, E. D. Burr, James Gallery, James R. Hyde, Dr. A. C. Dutton, James E. Smith, Lyman T. White, E. L. Briggs, Alice M. Bush, John M. Gallery, Jeanette Hosler, Grace Gallery, Emma Hawkins, Glennis Peterson.

Here is a record—only nine treasurers in 109 years, viz: James Gallery, James E. Smith, Dr. A. C. Dutton, E. S. Harris, W. Scott Munn, Heileman O. Miller, Mildred Pettit, William Montgomery and Harold W. Cummings.

A Reminiscence

The late J. Sumner Hamlin informs the writer that he remembers the interior of the church that burned in 1877 very well. The backs of the pews were very high so one could rest his head on them. They were probably built this way as a matter of convenience so the members could rest during the services, the man not from chasing a golf ball over a 200-acre farm, or the women from the strenuous efforts at bridge the previous week, but the hardships of the early pioneers.

They certainly lived up to their faith in those early days. They designated the last Friday before January 1 as "Fast Day." They had a Sunday Blue Law enacted. "Resolved, that we exact each other to guard in future against all employment or engagements, livery business, staging or any other occupation

tending to tarnish that day God hath hallowed or bring it in disrepute." They did not hesitate to strike a member from their roster if he or she did not meet the requirements of the church law.

In 1857, Dr. A. C. Dutton moved here from Stockbridge, Michigan, and was one of the most active members up to the time of his death. In 1859 the writer finds the following in regard to him: "That we give a vote of thanks to Dr. A. C. Dutton for his valuable service in leading our choir of singers." The writer considers this a mighty fine tribute to him as so often a service of this nature is overlooked. It is more than the majority of choristers receive. He was treasurer of the church from 1868 to 1898 and it was largely through his efforts that its finances were kept on an even keel.

An amusing incident appears in the trustees' efforts in hiring Rev. J. R. Stevenson (1859-1866). He was offered \$600 per year and he wanted \$650. He finally concluded he would take the \$600 and a donation. It seems that a donation used to play quite an important part in a pastor's salary in the early days. A story in this connection goes something like this. The pastor was making his weekly announcements from the pulpit one Sunday morning and after announcing all of the church activities gave out the following: "There will be a donation party at Deacon Smith's on Friday evening for the benefit of the pastor. All of those that can't bring cash, bring barn feed for I keep a 'hoss'."

The Church was again devastated by a conflagration on Easter Sunday, 1947.

Do you believe in a "Jinx?" It would seem that the little church has been enveloped in this unmistakable hoo-doo, "Thirteen."

The second meeting in the organization of the church was held on July 13, 1843; it was dedicated March 13, 1878; and the last fire was April 13, 1947.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In compiling the history of this church there seems to be no complete records available, so the writer will refer to data fur-

nished him by three different reports, all of which are supposed to be authentic, yet differ somewhat in regard to names and dates. The three are: one from the late Darius B. Pierce, who was a boy during that period; a history of Eaton County published in 1880; and one just furnished me by Mrs. Birdie Beasore. Excerpts will be taken from each as it is the aim of the writer to give as complete a history as possible.

From Mrs. Beasore's I quote in part; "In 1839 the conference met in Detroit (Mr. Pierce says 1837) and sent a missionary, the Rev. Washington Jackson, who moved into the field with his family and resided at the home of Luther Blodgett." This is now the home of Samuel Kieffer. Rev. Jackson preached at different homes in the Griffith neighborhood, holding services fortnightly, alternating with Grand Rapids and holding meetings at points on the way, reaching his appointments on foot.

The first services on record to be held in Eaton Rapids were in the home of Tryphosa Conklin. A thorough search has been made to find out if anyone knew the Conklins and where they resided, but our efforts have been in vain.

The Methodist Episcopal Church Society was organized in 1840 and the first services were held in the school house. (Mr. Pierce refers to this as an M. E. class only.) The school house was not built until 1842.

The Eaton County History gives the following in part: "Rev. David Knox, preacher in charge of the Eaton Circuit in 1843, appointed as Trustees of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Eaton Rapids, in said Eaton Circuit, viz: Tyler Blodgett, John Montgomery, Andrew De Witt, Luther S. Noyes, Ira Turney, Luther Blodgett, Pierpoint E. Spicer, Benjamin Knight and Chancey Butler. Meetings were held by the Methodists in the old school house which is now used by Daniel W. Gould as a barn. A frame church was commenced not long after the organization but was not completed until 1855."

In 1880 the old edifice was moved to the parcel of ground near the dam on South Main Street and used for a copper shop. That year a new brick church was erected on the old site at the cost of \$8,000.00. The pastor was Rev. James Hamilton. In 1917 the

educational annex was built during the pastorate of Rev. W. W. Slee. In 1950, during the pastorate of Rev. Eaden Davis extensive changes were made in the Church; the members remodeled the sanctuary by leveling the floor, installed new pews and moved the pulpit to the east; also they excavated the cellar, making a spacious dining room.

Pastors who have served this church since 1876 are: J. S. Warner, James Hamilton, F. B. Bangs, W. I. Cogswell, David Engle, Louis Delamarter, J. G. Crozier, M. M. Callen, Robert E. Meader, Adam Clark, J. R. Wooten, William W. Slee, Richard Millard, Marshall Braun, Thomas G. R. Brownlow, Stanley Niles, Wayne Fleenor, Walter Radcliff, Richard C. Miles, Eaden Davis and Ralph Witmer.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The records of this church state that at an informal meeting held at the house of Brother Henry R. Jeffries in Eaton Rapids on the 25th day of January, 1845, several brothers and sisters (thirteen in number) were present holding letters from various Baptist Churches and, after mutual consultation, it was agreed to hold a meeting on the 22nd of February at the home of Calvin Race to consider the propriety of organizing a Baptist Church in this place. The meeting was held pursuant to appointment and the following persons formed themselves into a church known as the "First Baptist Church in Eaton Rapids" and adopted articles of faith and church government: Calvin Race, Ann Race, Henry R. Jeffries, Mary L. Jeffries, Timothy Wheeler, Asenath Wheeler, Ann Arnold and Samuel Ferris. The latter was elected deacon and also chosen as the church clerk; his term of office extended until his death, a period of nearly 50 years. Mrs. Carrie Fay was secretary for many years later.

The early meetings of the church were held in the various homes and also in the buildings owned by the Congregational Society which had built a small place of worship. Services were held in this manner every other Sunday until the organization was able to erect a small house of worship of its own on the site of the present edifice. Ground for the erection of a church was

offered by a friend of the society but was declined on account of its being too low and difficult to drain; the property was where the late Harry S. DeGolia house now stands, nearly across from the Methodist Episcopal church. Instead, a location was chosen on Dexter Road. The frame of the first church building is the upright of the late Dr. S. M. Wilkins house, just east of the present church. In 1859 under the pastorate of the Rev. H. G. Mosher, a frame meeting house was erected on the present site.

In 1871, under the guidance of Peter Van Winkle, there was such a great increase in attendance that it became necessary to find a larger meeting place. Meetings were held for some time in the Frost House—a pioneer hotel. The result of this great revival was a large addition to the church building.

It is interesting to note what strict discipline was exercised in the church in those days and exclusions are recorded as late as 1925. Absence from communion service or from monthly covenant meetings practically assured one's being dropped from membership. Conduct unbecoming to a member of a Christian church was also grounds for exclusion. Instances may be found in the records of members being asked to apologize for their unchristian actions and repent or be dropped from membership.

Records are also found of family and business disputes being brought before the church for settlement, according to Biblical instructions rather than law.

In 1878, under the Rev. J. M. Titterington's pastorate, a concrete baptistry was installed on the rostrum beside the pulpit. Prior to that time baptisms were performed in the river and even after that time some were baptized there by preference.

In April, 1883, the Eaton Rapids and Charlotte Baptist churches united in starting a church in Dimondale and, in accordance with a new law of the State of Michigan, the Eaton Rapids church disbanded and reorganized. In December of this year, the church purchased a tablet in memory of Miles Bronson, who was a missionary from the church. It occupies a prominent place in the church annex.

In February, 1889, the Rev. J. P. Farmer was called and during his pastorate, which covered a period of four years, the church

made rapid strides in many ways. The main auditorium was rebuilt at a cost of \$7,000, and a new pipe organ was installed. In the center of the auditorium an extension was made on either side. In the east, the organ, choir loft, pulpit and bapistry were placed, and in the west additional seats were installed. The seating capacity of the church was doubled and the pews faced the east instead of the north as before.

Rev. Farmer had a successful pastorate, 246 being added to the church roll. Many of these were the younger people of the community who were attracted to the evening services not as curiosity seekers but because of the solemnity of the occasion. The writer can look back at those baptismal scenes as those it were yesterday. The first to enter the bapistry was the pastor, while on either side stood two deacons. As the converts approached the bapistry, preparatory to taking the sacred vows, their hands were held by the deacons while the choir sang "Blest Be The Tie That Binds." They slowly descended the steps into the arms of the pastor who at the point of immersing them, spoke those consoling words of our Lord and Master, "I baptize thee in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, Amen." As they ascended the steps their hands were again held firmly by the two who had gone through the same experience many years previously. It must have given them a feeling of confidence to be in the hands of these two Christian gentlemen. Those referred to are the late William P. Green and Charles I. Barrett. Two finer men never graced God's footstool.

Miss Minnie Farmer, the pastor's daughter, was in our graduating class that year (1889), and was very popular.

The addition to the church on the north was completed in 1921.

Those serving the church as pastors are: J. C. Post, B. Hill, John Tamplin, D. Handy, J. C. Covey, C. Chitz, Henry Mosher, J. G. Portman, J. W. Reese, Peter Van Winkle, J. M. Titterington, Ira Hall, John Heritage, James Goodman, J. P. Farmer, C. L. Lester, L. D. Petit, W. W. Hicks, G. E. Harger, W. T. Woodhouse, Coe Hayne, S. S. Clark, L. S. Slaybaugh, A. D. Werden, Ernest A. Kelford, Harley D. Zull, Vernon F. Legg, and Donald L. Kessler.

In November, 1945, the church celebrated its hundredth anniversary, the event extending from the 16th through the 18th. Fine programs were arranged for the entire anniversary with a pot-luck dinner on Sunday, the closing day. The former pastors, Coe Hayne, L. S. Slaybaugh and Ernest Kelford, were speakers besides the active pastor, Rev. Vernon Legg, who delivered the sermon on Sunday morning. Ford Pettit, son of a former pastor, and Mrs. Minnie Werden, wife of the late Rev. Albert D. Werden whose service covered a period of 18 years here, gave fine talks of events that transpired during their connection with the church.

One of the most interesting talks, given by Miss Dorothy Merritt, was the "Window of Symbols." Each window in the church symbolizes some phase of the doctrine of the church upon which the Christian religion is so firmly established that the faith of the stalwart never wavers. Miss Merritt was congratulated very highly on her excellent interpretation of the symbols.

The entire membership gave freely of their time to make the anniversary a success. No little credit should be bestowed upon Mrs. Gerald Gillett as she was very gracious with her offerings on the console.

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Without a doubt the most attractive edifice in the city is the St. Peter's Catholic Church.

In the early '70's, during the Mineral Water boom, three families, the Birneys, Drurys and Caffreys, were attracted to our little village and a few years later, the Blackers, Flahertys, Ruschs and O'Neills made their home here and in the adjoining countryside. They were all of the Catholic faith and, there being no church here, about the only religious rites they were able to observe were at their own fireside, except when they attended mass in some other city. About 1885, they purchased the Episcopal Church, that society having been disbanded. For many years priests from Charlotte, Hastings, Albion and other cities offered mass here. In fact, there never was a resident priest stationed in this city. During World War I, the membership began to in-

crease, and now there are about 150 persons in the parish.

Merton P. Bromeling, a liberal supporter of the church, answered the final summons in 1930 and the widow, Mrs. Margaret Bromeling, remodeled the church as a memorial to her late husband. The services of Mr. Lee Prindle, a skilled artisan in masonry, were secured, and soon the wooden structure began to take on an appearance of grandeur such as only the encasement of uncut field stone is able to produce.

But this was just the beginning. All of the appointments back of the communion rail are exquisite. No effort was spared in installing the most precious gift at Mrs. Bromeling's command, the altar being of Carrara Marble, prepared in the quarries in Italy to specific measurements and shipped direct to this city. As to its beauty, it is doubtful whether there is another in the state that can duplicate it. The stations of the cross are hand-carved wood from Italy and painted in colors; the windows are leaded art glass. The electric light fixtures are solid bronze; terrazzo floors and the pews are of unusual design. In one of the front windows are inscribed these words "In memory of Merton P. Bromeling—Born 1869—Died 1930."

The Reverend Father Paul Donovan is the priest serving the church. He is Secretary to the Most Reverend Joseph H. Albers, Bishop of the Lansing Diocese.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

There is no record available of this church, so the writer will be obliged to give this sketch as he observed it when, as a very small lad, he attended it occasionally with Mrs. Philip Leonard, one of its devoted members. In the early '70's, during the Mineral Water boom, several families moved here from the East and Southeast. There must have been quite a colony from those points as they purchased a beautiful building plot at the corner of East Knight and South River Streets and erected a church thereon. As we remember it, the altar and accessories appertaining thereto were very beautiful. Those affiliated with the church, as we can remember them, besides Mrs. Leonard, were "Grandma" Crane and family, Mrs. Story and "Lolly," and Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Merriitt and family.

ADVENTIST CHURCH

The date of the organization of the Adventist Church was May 23, 1875. The leading charter members were Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Ferris and Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Drake. Up to the time of the building of the edifice, services were held at the home of B. F. Lewis. Mr. Ferris owned the property and donated the land upon which the church is now located. His home occupied the present site of the Blackmore apartments. There is no record as to when the church was built but in all probability it was before 1880. There were thirteen charter members. The church at present has an adult membership of forty persons with fifty-eight children in the Sunday School. Many thanks to the courtesy of Mrs. Ada Bradford of Springport for this brief historical sketch of her church. Rev. C. J. Sumner is the pastor.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

There are no records available as to when the Wesleyan Methodist Church was founded here, so the writer will be obliged to give the history from memory, as the founders of the church have been called to their reward; the younger generation have never given the date of the church's inception serious consideration. I believe the site on which the church stands was donated by the Rev. John R. Stevenson, whose home was located on the joining lot, the church being vacant property. The edifice was built in the 80's and was known as the Methodist Protestant Church. I am sure that Rev. John R. Stevenson was the first pastor; the Rev. A. Byers was also one of the early pastors. One of the most forceful pastors and also the one responsible for its increased membership was the Rev. Lafayette Dodds, who was here from 1894 to 1898. About this time it became The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

In 1929 the church burned, and since at that time the New York Central Railroad had abandoned the depot and freight office at what was known as the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad and transferred their offices to the Michigan Central

Railroad depot, the society bought the depot, moved it to the site of the burned building, rebuilt it, and it is now the present church. It has a membership of about fifty with a Sunday School of sixty-five. The Rev. Kenneth Hill is the present pastor.

THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The Church of the Nazarene was started here as a Mission in 1937, Claude Jenks being the evangelist in charge. That summer the meetings were conducted in a tent at the corner of Holmes and South East Streets. That fall quarters were secured in the Grange Hall. In 1939 the church society was formed and Rev. Erma Pierce was called to fill the pulpit. She was succeeded by the Rev. Domina. In 1942 the Rev. Eugene Hadwin became the pastor. The place of meeting had been changed to the I. O. O. F. Hall. During his pastorate of four years, Mr. Hadwin built a new church on Water Street. It is constructed of cinder block, treated with white paint on the exterior, presenting a very neat appearance. The cost complete was between \$9,000 and \$10,000. The society certainly is to be commended since the lot was purchased, and the church completed ready for occupancy in one year without indebtedness. The citizens gave very liberal assistance in financing it and most of the labor was donated. The Rev. Hadwin was the power behind the movement, as he laid most of the walls himself. In 1946 he was called to Cadillac, and the Rev. Reo D. Miller, the present pastor, was sent here by the conference. He is a tireless worker and while the membership only numbers twenty-five and the Sunday School about seventy, yet by his popularity he has a well-filled church at his services. The society has purchased a parsonage on North River Street and is changing the interior into a very modern home.

THE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

In the early '80's Nelson J. Northrup purchased a lot on State Street and erected the United Brethren Church on it. The society never grew very large and at his death it disbanded. About 1895 the property was purchased by Lee Conklin who built it into a residence with apartments on the second floor. It is now the home of Charles L. Poor.

THE SPIRITUALIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In 1932 a group of fifteen people met at the home of John W. Bunker to formulate plans for the organization of a Spiritualist Church in Eaton Rapids. The church was organized and put into operation in the fall of that year. Membership increased immediately and the church known as the First Spiritualistic Church moved to larger quarters over the old library building on the corner of North Main and East Knight Streets.

As membership and attendance grew, the church moved its place of services to the Congregational Church and later to the Masonic Temple. In the spring of 1941, under the leadership of the Rev. John W. Bunker and the Rev. Robert G. Chaney, the church was granted papers of incorporation under the name of the Spiritualistic Episcopal Church. Among the purposes of this ecclesiastical incorporation was the establishment of churches throughout the country.

The same spring, the church purchased and began the remodeling of its present church home on East Hamlin Street.

This building was formerly known as the Belnap Hall and was erected about 1905 by the late Charles G. Belnap in memory of his father, Morris Belnap, who built a blacksmith shop on this site in the '60's and operated it until he was succeeded by his son, the late Charles G. Belnap. The property was taken over by the Knights of Pythias Lodge in 1908 and was known as the Pythian Temple. (The Charter of the Lodge was surrendered in December, 1939, when they relinquished all their rights to the property.) Its auditorium will seat over three hundred people and it has ample dining parlors, kitchen and office space on the second floor. It also has a prayer shrine, open twenty-four hours a day, for convenience of those who wish to spend time in meditation and prayer.

In the fall of 1951 other churches associated with the Mother Church of the Spiritualist Episcopal Church and it has enjoyed a steady growth ever since. It now operates twenty-five churches throughout the Middle West. The national offices of the organization remain in the Eaton Rapids church building.

The organization does extensive publishing of tracts and booklets. It also publishes a monthly magazine of daily studies and articles known as "Golden Rays," which is distributed throughout the country. The latest addition to the church is the new model Hammond Electric Organ.

THE PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH

The Pilgrim Holiness Church was organized in March, 1931, and in September the following year purchased the residence of the late Margaret Markhem, which they rebuilt into a fine church auditorium. The church owns its parsonage and a bus that brings the rural children to attend Sunday School. The membership of the church has increased materially from year to year; the church also has a large Sunday School attendance and a fine Young People's Society.

Each year several hundreds of dollars are given to Home and Foreign Missions and two native missionary workers are supported in Mexico. The first pastors of the church were the Rev. and Mrs. H. D. Clements and the present pastor is the Rev. G. E. Stace.

THE CHURCH OF GOD

The Church of God was organized in the home of C. J. Decker on Canal Street in September, 1938. Starting with a basement church at 524 Michigan Street its members went on the theory of building slowly but substantially. This site was abandoned in 1948. They now have erected a new church on Brook Street. The pastor is the Rev. D. H. Robinson.

CAMP GROUND

From a religious standpoint, one of the institutions that is known, not only throughout the state but nationally, is the Camp Ground, situated one mile south of this city, beautifully nestled at the bend of Grand River which leads to the old historic Perrine's dam.

The following material was taken partially from the records of the Association.

The first meeting of the Trustees of the Lansing District Camp Meeting Association was held at the Lansing fair grounds June 20, 1885; C. E. Holbrook of Charlotte was elected president of the Board and the Rev. George L. Mount the first secretary. Thirty-three acres of land were purchased soon after from Solomon C. Perrine, the tract being located on the banks of Grand River, a mile from Eaton Rapids. Preliminary work was started at once and the underbrush cut.

A tabernacle 55 by 100 feet was built with provisions for additions from time to time; also a hotel, with sleeping quarters for about twenty-five persons, and a dining room were built which were utilized principally by the speakers and transients attending the meetings. Twenty-five tents were procured from the supply depot of the state troops for the first meeting; six gasoline lamps or torches furnished the light. In laying out the grounds and establishing the roads, those in charge must have been thoroughly imbued with religious fervor as they carried out the idea in every minute detail, the roads spelling "Holiness" and the tabernacle being erected inside the letter "O". On the large arch to the entrance of the grounds there is inscribed these sacred words: "Holiness unto the Lord."

The first Camp Meeting was held Thursday evening, June 24, 1886, and lasted for ten days. As to the length of the meetings, the original idea of ten days has always prevailed but the opening date was changed to the evening of the last Thursday in July with the closing date the first Sunday in August.

The first caretaker of the grounds was O. M. Wilkes, who worked about half-time for the Association and had living quarters in the hotel.

In 1886 the Rev. W. I. Cogswell was elected President at the annual meeting which is always held during the session.

This was in the horse and buggy days and the prevailing prices were in vogue at that time: price of season tickets was fixed at 50 cents; single admission 10 cents; entry for a single horse 5 cents; entry for a team 10 cents; single horse season ticket 25 cents and a season ticket for a team 50 cents. A corral was pro-

vided at the extreme south part of the grounds and was located in the double S's. Tickets were handled in a unique way. When a person purchased a ticket, he was told to retain it as it would be taken up when he left the grounds. If the party was unable to produce the ticket, the price of admission was collected from him. This ruling was caused by persons gaining entrance to the grounds by means of a boat.

The Camp Ground is and always has been operated by the Methodist Society of this State.

From the first, the Camp Ground became very popular; many local people as well as transients built homes on the grounds and resided there during the summer months. It was especially attractive to many from the metropolitan centers who moved their families here to get away from the everlasting turmoil of the city and to give their children the advantage of the great open spaces. Boating and swimming were quite popular and the writer has not recalled a single accident happening from these popular pastimes.

The Epworth League Chapel was erected at this time. Services in it were largely for the younger groups and conducted by people especially adapted to that line of work. It has a seating capacity of 150 and has always been a very popular meeting place. The knowledge of those attending have received during the meetings has been of vital importance and in many instances on their return they have taken up work in the Sunday School and become leaders in that branch of the church. Very often those in charge are from the Chicago Evangelistic Institute, an outstanding seminary.

The Rev. Sam Jones, a nationally known evangelist, was one of the speakers in 1887, and the following year the Rev. Sam Small, another eminent divine, was in attendance during the entire meeting. Dr. James Hamilton was elected president in 1888 and at the annual meeting the name of the Association was changed to the Central Michigan Camp Meeting Association. The meetings had gained in popularity to such an extent that not only the bus lines but several other persons with their carryalls met all trains, and with the local citizens needing transportation, all seemed to be well patronized.

The steamer "Stirling," a flat bottom side-wheel craft owned and operated by John H. Stirling, also plied Grand River between its docks located near the dam and the entrance to the grounds. Mr. Stirling conceived the idea that a flat bottom scow with seats could be used as a trailer to the steamer and thereby more persons could be accommodated. Its seating capacity was limited to forty people. All went well until one Sunday afternoon on the return trip, the trailer had become overloaded and sank in the middle of the river in about eight feet of water. The occupants mounted the seats and managed to keep their heads above water. The accident happened in front of the George V. Meseroll boat livery located on the east end of Broad Street. The row boats were manned quickly and rushed to the craft in distress and very soon all of the passengers were rescued but they were thoroughly drenched. In other words they were baptized whether they wanted to be or not. The trailer was never used after that and there was a good reason why as no one would risk his life on it again.

A gentleman by the name of Collier from Flint put a screw wheel boat on the river that carried about twenty people. His boat would make about three round trips to the "Stirling's" one, but because it drew too much water and weeds collected on the propeller, (thereby retarding the speed) and because it came in contact with stones that broke off the propeller blades, the boat did not prove very profitable for its owner and he did not return another season.

Mr. Frank Rice was given permission to operate a ferry from the present Ed. Buechler property across the river to the Camp Ground in 1886. This was quite a saving to those living south of the city, as their teams could be left on the south bank of the river and by using the ferry they could save approximately five miles in travel for the round trip.

The trustees were very reluctant in acquiring any debts and made just such improvements from year to year as they were able to negotiate.

Moody and Sankey were in their hey-day at this time and it was suggested to the trustees that they secure their services for the ten days' meeting. The astounding amount of \$1,000.00 for the

entire meeting baffled them; they were reluctant to take the chance. Had they dared to make the venture, the railroads would have run excursions here and the coffers of the Association would have been filled to almost overflowing.

In 1894 the name was changed to the Michigan State Holiness Camp Meeting Association, which name it still retains.

Samuel Miller became president of the board in 1901 and H. J. Milbourn was elected secretary, the same year, both residents of Eaton Rapids. The Hon. David B. Hale, another stalwart of the local Methodist Church, was elected president a few years later.

As the years rolled on, the meetings became so largely attended by those from out the city that there was not enough available quarters to supply their needs. In 1900 a large two-story hotel was built with eighty rooms; this is generally well-filled. At this same time a dining hall 30 by 100 feet with a seating capacity of 250 persons was built. It is operated in connection with the hotel and is very well patronized. On account of help conditions, it has been operated the past few years as a cafeteria.

It has always been the policy of the Board of Trustees to procure the best spiritual leaders available. There was one minister that was so universally loved by the yearly congregations that he was chosen to conduct the services for thirty-three successive years. This was Evangelist Joseph H. Smith of Redlands, California, who passed to his reward in 1946 at the age of ninety-one years.

The tabernacle became too small and the Board decided to raze the old one and erect a more spacious one, which was done in 1916. It will seat comfortably about 3000 persons.

The money to defray the expenses of the new building was raised the previous year, at which time Dr. M. M. Callen contributed \$2500 in memory of his wife, and to commemorate the virtues of this estimable lady, the edifice was dedicated and is now known as the Callen Memorial Tabernacle.

The Association was and still is very reluctant in changing the personnel of its presidents once they have displayed their ability as leaders, and up to this time those elevated to this post

have been comparatively few. These three ministers have held the exalted position for more than fifty years, viz: Marshall M. Callen, William G. Nixon, and his son Lloyd H. Nixon, the latter being elected this year for the fourteenth time. Other presidents have been Wallace P. Manning, Howard D. Skinner and a few others whose names are not available.

In 1921, during the regime of the Rev. Wm. G. Nixon, the collecting of an admission fee at the gate was discontinued. A budget was made out each year by the Board for the following annual meeting and finances were raised by contributions. At this time there were several laymen on the Board who were able to contribute liberally toward the expenses. This method of financing the meetings has been in vogue since that time.

What a peculiar quirk fate displays at times. The following incident happened more than fifty years ago. The writer was attending the meetings one Sunday afternoon and as the usual custom a prayer service was held on the banks of the river at sunset. One of those taking part in the service was a fine-looking young chap with wavy blonde hair, dressed in a Salvation Army Uniform upon which was displayed an insignia which revealed the fact that he had attained the rank of Captain. From his shoulders hung a guitar and at the close of the service he sang that beautiful hymn that has inspired the church-going people in many lands. The song was "The Old Rugged Cross" and the young Captain was George Bennard, its composer, now a resident of Albion, Michigan. Homer A. Rodehaver, who lead the singing for Billy Sunday many years, featured this song and it became very popular. (The Rev. Bennard had met many business reverses and it is rumored that Rodehaver purchased the song from Bennard for the meager sum of \$150,—not authentic. Rodehaver had used this song so extensively in his work and it had become so universally loved that he conceived the idea of having records made of it to sell to the public. It is understood that the sale of records has eclipsed any other of a similar nature and Rodehaver's royalty on them amounts up to the thousands of dollars.)

Thus, the old story is again demonstrated. The inventor and the composer of song or verse rarely reap the harvest that is made possible by their genius or talents,

The First Congregational Church

My grandparents, Deacon and Mrs. Aaron Baldwin Munn, were two of its founders, and the following poem was composed in their honor and read at the one hundredth anniversary of the Church on October 25, 1943.

Written by W. Scott Munn

A hundred years ago, dear kin,
After you had blazed the trail;
You built your hut in virgin woods,
On high land or in vale.

Each tree you fell was straight and sound,
The elements to stand;
With ax and saw and measure true,
Made ready by your hand.

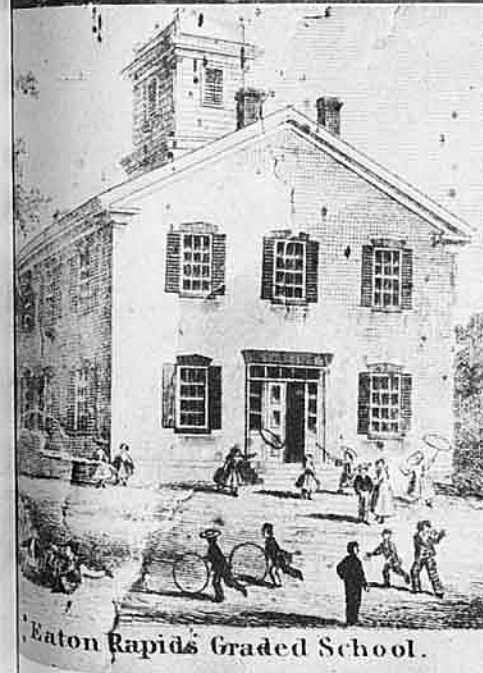
The day of raising soon arrived,
And neighbors far and near;
Came gladly at your welcome call,
To lend their help and cheer.

With a he-ho-he and a ho-he-ho,
Each log was put in place;
And set a' right with skillful hands
O'er which the roof should grace.

And at the feast that very night,
You vowed that you would do
The best thing for yourselves and kin:
Erect a church and school.

You laid a "Firm Foundation," which
Has stood the test of years;
"God Bless Our Home" your motto,
Never gave you doubt or fears.

A hundred years ago, dear kin,
We've never lost our faith;
When our society was born,
On October twenty-fifth.



UPPER: First school building in Eaton Rapids
LOWER LEFT: Little Red School on the Hill built in 1854
LOWER RIGHT: Union School erected in 1871

SCHOOLS

It would be unethical to attempt to write a history of the schools of Eaton Rapids without first taking into consideration the advent of the schools in the two townships of which it is a part, since it is so situated that the section line which runs east and west between them cuts the city in twain.

The first school in this part of the country was taught by Mrs. Ruth Horn in the summer of 1837 for a period of six or eight weeks. It was held in a log shanty, owned by George Y. Cowan, located in section 35, Tyler township. In 1838 the school was taught by Miss Lueina Emerson. As to the continuation of the school, there seems to be a discrepancy of some four years. Was it held at the same place? One theory is that a log school house was built in 1838 in the Griffith neighborhood. Another theory advocates that the log shanty referred to was located in section 27, on a farm also owned by George Y. Cowan (known as the Albert Rogers farm). One might believe that this is authentic, as a school district was formed in 1842 on the land owned by H. P. Onderdonk and a 99-year lease was issued by him for the purpose of erecting a school house in the above section. A school has been conducted here continuously since that time and bears the name of Mr. Onderdonk, the lessor. In 1941 a new lease was consummated for a period of 50 years.

Now here is another version. Some say that a school house was erected in the Griffith neighborhood and was moved to the hamlet of Springport. There is no record of this—just hearsay, so your guess is as good as mine, but there is positive proof that the first school was held in a log shanty on the property of George Y. Cowan, and as he owned land in both sections 27 and 36, Tyler township, let us give Tyler township the honor that it is entitled to.

Eaton Rapids Township, School District No. 1, was formed July 19, 1842, and comprised sections 28 to 33 inclusive, which would indicate a school was established in the neighborhood of

the Brickyard school house on M-50. District No. 2 in Eaton Rapids township was formed at the same time and included sections 1-3, 10-12, 13-15, 21-24. No doubt this is the Rogers school located on M-99. District 5, 6, and 7 were fractional and the village of Eaton Rapids was formerly included in District 5, Eaton Rapids and Tyler townships.

Now comes a little irregularity as to the exact year of the first school in the city of Eaton Rapids. From the diary of Mrs. Margaret LaFever I quote the following: "The first school house was built in 1842 on the southwest corner of South Main and West South Streets." (This is on Lot 12, Block 25 of the original plot—the residence of Mrs. Charles A. Stimson).

From a history of Eaton County I quote the following: "November 4, 1841, hired Henry Frink to teach school four months—twenty-three dollars per month amounting to ninety-two dollars"—"April 13, 1842, voted to have summer school five and a half months, by a female teacher. J. D. Conklin notified to finish school house according to contract or be prosecuted." In the summer of this year Harriet Dixon taught fifteen weeks, at one dollar and a half per week. Thus Mr. Frink taught a session of school in 1841, which must have been housed in another building as the school house was not built until the following year. (This is undoubtedly the oldest building in Eaton Rapids; it is a frame structure and after it had served its purpose as a school house, it was transformed into a barn by Daniel W. Gould and later moved to the Winfield Forward property on Leonard Street where it is now used as a garage). On September 30, 1842, the Eaton Rapids township portion of the school district contained thirty-two children and the Tyler township twenty-five.

On November 21, 1847, Bud Norton was hired to teach the school for four months at fifteen dollars a month and board and on May 8, 1843, Eliza Goodspeed was hired for five months at eleven shillings a week. For the next ten years similar amounts were paid teachers for their services.

By 1853 the number of pupils had so increased that it became necessary to provide extra room. The Congregational and Methodist Churches were used. (At that time the Congregational Church

was located where the Dr. J. R. Maxey's home is situated and the Methodist, on its present site).

At the annual school meeting held September 26, 1853, it was voted to build a new school and the following spring the contract was let to Joshua Slayton for \$2500 with \$315 extra. It was to be two stories high and constructed of red brick. Near where the Bay Window School is located, Mr. Slayton owned a farm that contained an excellent quality of fire clay. It was dug, formed into bricks, and fired in his kiln on the premises. The present school site had been selected for school purposes and this new structure was erected on a high elevation where the West Building now stands. At the foot of the hill on King Street, there were fifteen heavy timbers placed in the hillside for steps. The path led from these up a steady incline, then up several steps into the building, now referred to as the "little red school house on the hill." Surrounding the school house were spacious grounds covered with large, sturdy oaks where most of the public events of the town in the summer were held. In 1851, the district was reorganized as District No. 12 of Eaton Rapids, with the two townships, Eaton Rapids and Tyler, consolidated. It is now known as Fractional District No. 12 of Eaton Rapids and Hamlin townships. In 1857, the number of school children in the district between the ages of four and eighteen years was 189.

In 1870, the curative properties of the Magnetic Mineral Springs were discovered and the village was overrun not only with those coming to take treatment for their health, but with others who located here and wished to make it their permanent residence. The school building had been inadequate to care for those of school age for some time, so it was deemed advisable to procure larger quarters. At the annual school meeting held September 5, 1870, it was voted to build a new school house. A bond was floated for \$25,000 bearing 10 percent interest. The sum of \$20,000 was to be expended in building a new school house on the grounds belonging to the district (Block 9 and 10, original village plot), with \$2,000 to be expended in building an auxiliary school house on lots 1 to 4, Block 7, McIntosh and Frost addition. Both buildings were erected in 1871, brick being

the material used in their construction. The central building was three stories high and stood at the head of Montgomery Street. It housed about 450 pupils, while the auxiliary was one-story in height and accommodated about fifty pupils.

In January, 1885, the city suffered a great calamity when the central school building and all its contents were destroyed by fire. This entailed a severe loss to practically every family in the district as well as those in the rural communities whose children were attending school here.

It was an extreme hardship to scores of the poor people to procure books, but they were assisted in many ways and after an interim of about a week the school was operating on schedule, although the different grades were being housed in every available space throughout the city.

The school board had a problem on their hands, but they were equal to the emergency. The walls of the burned building were tested and found not sufficiently strong to withstand the weight of a three-story structure, so it was reduced to two stories, which necessitated the erection of an additional building. The plans were secured from an engineer; the contract was let and ground was broken for the West Building, which housed eight grades, while the rebuilt building held four. The total expense was about \$16,000, \$8,000 of which was collected as insurance on the building lost by fire. In 1887, a second auxiliary school house was erected on Lot 1—Block 1—Dutton and Leonard Addition. (May I make a comment here?—I had reached the age of 14 years that summer; I presume Harry A. Silsbee, later an attorney in Lansing, and I handled ninety per cent of the brick in the West Building for which we received fifty cents a day for ten hours work). By the natural growth of the city the school rooms became crowded and it became necessary to have larger quarters. In 1922 the citizens voted to bond the city for \$150,000, —\$130,000 for a new high school and the balance for remodeling the heating plant and other necessary improvements, all of which were completed the following year. This new building was complete in all of its appointments, including a gymnasium and showers.

Athletically, this was heralded with pronounced enthusiasm,

for since 1910 all winter sports had been played at the Red Ribbon Hall. Now the boys and girls competing in these sports had as fine equipment as any of their adversaries.

On account of the scarcity of teachers, many rural schools closed their doors and gave their students the advantage of a more diversified course of study by enrolling them in the city schools. These, in addition to those students from the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home (about 150), had again crowded our schools to overflowing. There was but one thing to do and that was to apply to the Kellogg Foundation for relief. They checked up on our needs and agreed to present us with \$75,000 towards the erection of a new school building. \$64,000 was obtained from the P.W.A. in a Federal grant. The school board pulled every string at their command and, although it was thought at one time that their efforts had gone for naught, Supt. Charles L. Poor would not concede defeat. By continuous use of the wires and a trip to Chicago, he managed to secure the grant. The people voted to give the school board authority to transfer \$15,000 that had been placed in a sinking fund to the building fund and thereby our new \$154,000 elementary building was a reality and was dedicated in 1938.

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Charles L. Poor:

The Kellogg Foundation has increased the efficiency not only of the faculty of our school but of professional men and parents in various ways by sponsoring a summer course for teachers and school administrators in several midwest Colleges and Universities, one local teacher being sent to the University of Mexico in Mexico City.

Members of the local Board of Education received a short course at Chicago and Northwestern Universities and the Superintendent and others from this area were given refresher courses in three Eastern Universities.

Doctors and dentists received post graduate courses in medical and dental colleges and physical and dental examinations were arranged for all children in the elementary schools of the city; also a school nurse and health officer made regular visits to the school and the community.

Our school and city libraries were enriched by the addition of hundreds of new books on an exchange basis of one new book for four old useless ones.

These and many other services were provided to help achieve Mr. Kellogg's expressed hope that it would promote the health, happiness and well being of children, all of which was financed by the Foundation.

The people of Eaton Rapids should feel extremely grateful to the Kellogg Foundation for its many kindnesses to us.

Important data relative to school activities and additional departments follow:

- 1856 The first school annual was published and called "The Bee." It was hand-written mostly by Miss Nettie Swift.
- 1865 The first school census was recorded in Eaton County.
- 1867 The law creating the office of County Superintendent of Schools was put into effect.
- 1874 Vocal music was added.
- 1876 Charles L. Blodgett was the first graduate on June 3rd. Tuition—Lower grades 20 cents and 30 cents; High School 35 cents; Languages, 40 cents.
- 1886 First Junior Public Exercises were held on March 24th.
- 1887 The school was visited by a committee from the University of Michigan and placed on the University list for the first time. It has never been taken off.
- 1888 The first Alumni Banquet was held June 25th at the Anderson House.
- 1897 Chemistry was added to the course.
- 1902 Drawing was a new subject made available.
- 1905 Manual training and the Kindergarten were added.
- 1907 Manual arts were introduced, taught by Bessie Biddle and Bessie Hyde.
- 1908 Domestic Science course was started.
- 1912 The Commercial course began.
- 1912 An Orchestra was formed by Miss Pearl Keen.
- 1923 Agricultural, with Earl Sindecuse as teacher, became a part of the curriculum.
- 1923 Glen Klepinger started the High School Band.

School Song

WORDS BY W. SCOTT MUNN

TUNE—VARSITY

*Maroon and Gray, Down the field,
Never yield, Raise high your shield;
March on to Victory,
For E. R. H. S., our beloved Alma Mater.
Maroon and Gray, We're for you,
Here for you, To cheer for you,
We have no fear for you,
Maroon and Gray.*

School Library

There is one branch that the Eaton Rapids Public Schools should feel proud of and that is their library.

Upon inquiry, I am informed that it is much larger than that of the similar sized schools in this area, all as the result of Miss Helen Stirling, the librarian for several years, being a shrewd buyer.

It contains over 10,000 volumes of which about one-third are fiction, the balance being devoted to the drama, history and the liberal arts and sciences.

The library was started in 1929 by Miss Bessie Hyde, who has passed on. Others serving were Mrs. Ada Zavitz and Miss Helen Stirling, both being retired, and the present incumbent, Miss Stella Thompson.

The Eaton Rapids High School Alumni Association

There is another organization connected with the public schools which is outstanding and that is the Alumni Association that was organized in 1888, the Hon. Lawton T. Hemans being its first president. It has never missed a meeting over a period of sixty-three years, a record which the writer doubts can be equalled by any high school in the state.

From the time of the first graduating class until the Alumni were organized, only fifty-eight students had received diplomas, while at the present time many single classes exceed that number.

It was a struggle at first to keep the Association alive, but

once it gained a foot-hold, its annual meeting became a part of the graduation festivities and is held on the Friday evening following Commencement.

On June 11, 1937, the Golden Jubilee was held with a luncheon at noon at the Masonic Temple and the regular banquet in the high school gymnasium at night. It was a "gala affair" with many class reunions held which brought together schoolmates who had not seen one another since graduation.

Space forbids giving the officers of the Alumni Association, those in charge of the Jubilee and also the presidents and secretaries from the time of its organization.

The High School Band

The High School Band was organized by Glen Klepinger, basketball coach, in 1923, with about twenty members. It made rapid strides under the leadership of William Skeat, a graduate of the English School of Music, and gradually improved to its present degree of proficiency. It has grown materially and as a musical organization is equal to any in the state in a town comparable to ours in size.

It is now composed of about 60 musicians who are arrayed in beautiful uniforms that conform to the school colors (maroon and gray) and present a natty appearance on parade. Their cadence and precision in the different formations are well-executed.

Its present tutor is J. Dean Winter, a graduate of Michigan State College.

School Report, 1862

Through the graciousness of Mrs. Ruth Rouse, the writer is in possession of the "Michigan School Report 1862". This report was published by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State and contains the annual report of all public schools, colleges, seminaries, and the University of Michigan as furnished the State Office by the respective School boards and the Regents of the University.

EATON RAPIDS UNION SCHOOLS

PROF. JOHN GOODISON, PRINCIPAL

Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Sir:

The following report of the Eaton Rapids Union School is respectfully submitted:

First. The whole number of children residing in this district between the ages of five and twenty years, at the close of the school year is 206.

Second. The whole number of pupils who have attended School the past year was 199.

Third. The school is divided into three departments—the Higher, Intermediate, and Primary. In the higher department the course of studies are the higher English branches, such as are usually taught in high schools, together with the Languages; in the intermediate, the common English branches; in the primary, the first rudiments and object lessons.

Fourth. There is but one teacher in each department. The number of pupils in the higher department was 58 residents and 47 foreign; in the intermediate 72; in the primary 69.

Fifth. The fall term is four months, commencing the first Monday in September. The winter term commences on the first Monday succeeding the first Monday in January. The spring term commences on the first Monday in April. The two last terms continue 12 weeks each.

Sixth. The total expense of the school for the year was \$759.79. The average cost per year for tuition of each pupil was a fraction over \$3.81¼.

Seventh. The rates of tuition per quarter of 12 weeks, charged non-resident scholars are as follow:

Primary Department	\$1.50
Intermediate	\$2.00 to \$2.50
High School	\$3.00
High school with languages	\$3.40

Eighth. Financial.

Money on hand Sept. 2, 1861.....	\$ 3.01
Received through mill tax.....	288.18

Received primary school fund	119.17
Collection on rate bills	44.97
Received of non-resident pupils	57.91
Raised by tax to pay teachers' wages.....	200.00
By other taxes	100.00

Total \$813.24

Paid teachers	\$674.00
For all other purposes	85.79
Amount on hand Sept. 1, 1862.....	53.45

Total \$813.24

Ninth. We raise money by tax so as to make our school nearly free, and by so doing we secure a much better attendance. Eaton Rapids, Oct. 14, 1862.

A. HARWOOD, Director

Partial List of School Teachers Since 1841

Superintendents: Wesley Sears, E. P. Holbrook, Egbert L. Briggs, Orr Schurtz, Gustavus Adolphus Shartau, Thomas L. Conlin, Thomas L. Evans, T. B. Hartley, William G. Bauer, Ernest Luther, A. A. Wooster, H. L. Reynolds, Samuel P. Savage, Edward E. Crampton, William L. Walling, Elon Moore, Murray J. Martin, Charles L. Poor, Helmer Nelson, John F. Sibley, and M. J. Beiser.

Preceptresses: Nellie Law, Jeanette Hosler, Sarah H. Kellogg, Fannie Clark, Harriett Coyle, and Martha Goodwin.

Principals: Roy B. Way, Claude Beckhart, Roy Pratt, William G. Bauer, Wade Fast, Carl C. McClelland, Howard Elliott, Jason Cummins, Howard Perrine, Earl Sindecuse, Howard Conrad, Murray J. Martin, Wallace Swank, Don Staebler, Louis Schmidt, John F. Sibley, Howard Dalman, Lester Dickema, and Lester Luce.

Teachers: Henry Frink, Bird Norton, A. N. DeWitt, Luther S. Noyes, Samuel P. Town, Daniel Palmer, Harriett Dixon, Eliza Goodspeed, Roxanna Skinner, Elizabeth D. Noyes, Cynthia Taylor, Sara Gannon, Nina Van Buskirk, Clara Rogers, Celestia Leonard, Emma Gallery, Minnie McKee, Fannie Collier, Bertha Sprinkle, Lillian Godfrey, Mira Moore, Ella Blacker, Mattie

Lawrence, Bertha Hamilton, Lena Stump, Nellie Kelch, Mary Van Auken, Grace Gallery, Etta Manning, Mary Derby, Lena Munn, Bessie Hyde, Bessie Beedle, Maude Armstrong, Marie Boos, Wilma Hurd, Ivah Adams, Pearl Keene, Hazel Reed, Lela Silvernail, and Bertha Rathbun.

The Old School Bell

What prompted me to write this poem was the manner in which the old school bell seemed to fit into my life from childhood and followed me all through my business career.

When a lad in my play I kept time with its tones as it ushered in a new day of school and during my fifty years in the post office the eight o'clock bell was the signal to raise the windows for our daily operations.

I read the poem at the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first graduating class and the sixty-fourth meeting of the Eaton Rapids High School Alumni Association held on June 8, 1951.

THE OLD SCHOOL BELL

*I was just a lad in kilts,
When first I heard the bell
That called the boys and girls to school.
I remember—very well—
How they ran and jumped and rolled their hoops
Then stopped to rest a spell
Before they scampered up the steps
At the sound of the old school bell.*

*Soon I was a school boy, too,
And how we used to play
"The London Bridge is Falling Down"
And kissed the girls that-a-way.
We played leap frog and Oh, what fun!
How oft we'd like to shell
The janitor as he grabbed the rope
To ring the old school bell.*

*A new school house is started,
The old one to be razed:
Once 'twas our pride and joy,
Now a relic of the age.
"Where is the bell" the old grad shouted,
"It's on the block to sell."
It didn't take the 'lumni long,
To find that old school bell.*

*And as I near the four-score mark,
My hair is grey and thin;
My feet they falter just a bit,
My eyes are growing dim.
And to you men that labor here,
There's one thing I am here to tell;
It'll gladden the heart of this old grad,
Just to hear the old school bell.*

ATHLETICS

SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Athletics did not start with the establishment of the school, as the "old grind" predominated. School work came first and if there was nothing else to occupy your time, you would be allowed a little diversion, providing your home duties did not interfere.

As school sports, baseball and football became more or less active in the early '80's, the former being first, as the town team played at intervals and the boys had a chance to observe and learn the intricate points of the game. During school days we were permitted to play on the school grounds where the present high school and elementary buildings now stand. Very often there was an overflow, and a second game took place south of the West school building on vacant property across King Street. During the summer each ward had a team (three wards) and we "crossed bats" several times with one another. Harry and Percy Silsbee, Rush Britten, Jay Swift, Pearl Grimm, Harry DeGolia, John Caffrey, Allen Crittenden and the writer made up the second ward team, with two or three younger boys as substitutes. Rush Britten did most of the pitching. He had perfected an out-and-in curve and a deceptive drop—a valuable asset on any ball team. Harry Silsbee was our catcher or back stop, and first base was held down by the writer, who, since he was tall and rangy, made an excellent mark to "shoot at."

The competitive games quite often took place on the commons, where the town team played their match games (we were the sand lot teams of that period.) The commons were in the eastern part of the town, across the river, taking in all the land between South River and South East Streets (east and west) and State and East Hamlin Streets (north and south) with the exception of four houses situated to the extreme north side of the latter street. Holmes Street was not laid out until several years later.

Association football was the first to be introduced in the school about 1885 and was just played locally. It was more of a rough and tumble, free-for-all game than anything else. It could be played with a dozen or fifty. On account of the limited space on the school ground, it was more often played on the commons across the river. The method of procedure was to choose up sides. There were no goal posts—just a couple of large boulders placed on the ground about ten feet apart at either end of the field. The game was to get the ball between the two stones, which were guarded by two goal tenders the same as in polo. The ball was round. It was black and made of rubber, and was a trifle smaller than the present-day basketball. The rules of the game stated that the ball could be dribbled and kicked, but not thrown or carried. A flip of the coin decided which side was to kick off and which to receive the ball. The ball was kicked and the opposing team took possession of it. The idea was to dribble the ball and, if hard pressed by the opposition, pass it to another who would continue the dribble, or, if no one was near, kick the ball which had to be placed on the ground.

There was no tackling, but the play was to "gang up" on the dribbler and take the ball away from him if possible. Here is where the danger entered the picture. Two players coming together with such force might get "knocked out." There was one fleet-footed boy, Floyd "Sally" Walters, who was a past master at the game and, once he obtained possession of the ball, he would elude his opponents and invariably take the ball to the goal posts and kick it for the points.

Inter-school sports started in 1891 and have been carried on continuously since that time. Their inception was largely due to the influence and encouragement of Supt. Thomas L. Evans and Principal Charles Horn, who believed in athletics and could see that a good program of sports would attract students and have a tendency to build up the morale in the school. The interest continued with Supt. Thomas L. Conlon and Principal Willis T. Bishop. Mr. Bishop had just graduated from Olivet College where he was an honor student and outstanding in all branches of athletics. He was an excellent tutor in baseball. He also

organized the first football eleven and taught the boys the fundamentals of the game, especially the use of the "flying wedge," which was a wicked weapon used to a great advantage in scoring points. He also taught the art of boxing in the schools.

From 1892 to 1907 all branches of sports began to gain in popularity and the students were working hard in competition to make at least one of the different teams. The diamond and the gridiron predominated, with baseball having the edge, yet many played on both teams, while a few preferred track, jumping, discus throwing, pole vaulting and swimming.

BASEBALL

The Red Herrings

The first baseball team in our little village was organized and managed by William H. Reynolds (oldest son of I. N. Reynolds). The players were called the "Red Herrings." From the Eaton Rapids Journal under date of July 4, 1874, we quote the following: "The Red Herrings came out in their new uniforms today. Red caps, red stockings, white knee breeches, baseball shoes, white shirts and red belts is their make-up."

They developed into quite a ball team and the Cincinnati Red Stockings and the New York Mutuals came here to cross bats with the Herrings. The games were played on the grounds now used by the City Water Works (stand pipe) near the Michigan Central Railroad tracks.

The writer had not attained the age to witness the games played by the Herrings but heard many incidents in regard to them. I was well acquainted with the catcher, William F. Stirling, playing in the band with him for more than ten years, and being associated with him four years when he was the Postmaster. Other members of the team were William H. Reynolds, the pitcher, Bert and Scott Montgomery, and Ranson Bush. The remainder of the team I can't recall.

Mr. Stirling was a very methodical man. In those days it was the rule that the winning team should have the ball used in the game. To the Red Herrings these balls were valued as souvenirs. Mr. Stirling had a large box full of them but went even further than that. He was very handy with the old quill and pen, and

after the game the ball was cleaned thoroughly—the name of both teams, the score, place and date were printed on it in a very neat and attractive manner. After the ink dried the ball was given a coat of light-colored varnish to preserve it. The writer saw this collection many times twenty years after the games were played and the team disbanded, and the record was as distinct as the day it was printed.

My regret is I didn't get one of the balls for a souvenir. I don't suppose there is one in existence now.

The Lincolns

Under this caption no one except the older generation would know to whom or what I am referring. It is the "kid ball team" of the gay '90's that was demanding local attention at that time. As was the usual custom, each ward had its baseball nine and they crossed bats many times during the summer and thereby were able to ascertain the champions of the city. I think Charles A. Hughes was the organizer of this team. He conceived the idea of selecting the star or stars from each of their different teams and forming a nine to compete with "kid teams" in other cities.

For a name they selected "The Lincolns" in honor of George H. Lincoln who was an ardent fan and loved to see the kids play. For the honor the boys bestowed on him, he purchased from Spaulding Brothers of Chicago complete big league uniforms consisting of a blouse, trousers, caps, stockings, and shoes, the name of "Lincoln" adorning the front of the blouse. He also outfitted them with a large regulation catcher's mit, gloves, and a liberal supply of balls and bats. They were not only the envy of many local boys, but of out-siders where they had encounters.

They were a well-balanced team with two pitchers, Jesse Stringham, a right-hander and G. Elmer McArthur, a south-paw. Each had a diversified selection of curves and speed to burn and it was a wonderment to almost everyone how little "Jimmy" Caffrey (about 120 pounds) was able to hold them, but he was the back stop for most of the games. Their ages ranged from twelve to fifteen years. They were a great drawing card wherever they had engagements. They took on all comers, regardless of age, or size, with or without mustaches. It made no difference; they generally came out victorious. For a period of approximately

four years they played from twenty to twenty-five games each summer.

In 1893 they made their best record, winning nineteen out of twenty-one games, and any league team that could duplicate that record would be super in the annals of professional baseball. In one game at Bellevue, the opposition hired a pitcher from Olivet College to set the kids down. He was not very effective and McArthur fanned him his first time up, and was he "kidded!" The boys won easily. The following year they made another enviable record, playing every team that would take a chance with "that kid team" as the older fellows called them. That fall they won the tournament at the Eaton County Fair in Charlotte, competing with various men's teams throughout the County. An appropriate slogan for the team would have been "The larger they come, the harder they fall."

"The Bloomer Girls," a traveling baseball team, were in their "heyday" and the boys played several games with them.

The boys had many experiences which they loved to relate. The following one was a rather sad affair. As a rule they were transported to the places where they had outside games in a carryall, the power being a team of horses. Generally George W. Lindsey, one of the players, did the driving. On this particular day they were on their way to the Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State College), and on reaching the Maple Grove schoolhouse, turned out to pass another rig when one of the horses stepped into a hole dug for a telephone pole and broke its leg. The manager hired a farmer to kill and bury the horse and another farmer to take them to their destination. They returned via L. S. & M. S. Railway.

The personnel of the team follows: Charles A. Hughes, Clark L. Belnap,* William Dodds, Jerome Waggoner,* G. Elmer McArthur, Jesse T. Stringham,* James Caffrey, George W. Lindsey,* Wilbur Hoffman, Herbert Hoffman,* and Claude Edgar.* Those living are Mr. Hughes, Secretary of the D. A. C. in Detroit; Mr. McArthur, a retired attorney living here; Mr. Caffrey in Jackson; and Wilbur Hoffman, a mail carrier in Los Angeles, California. The whereabouts of "Billie" Dodds is unknown.

* DECEASED.

The Bloomer Gang

In the early days the residents had to plan their own amusement and they seemed to join together for a general good time and were not dependent upon the "hand-made" entertainment in vogue today. As a means of diversion, baseball games were played nearly every summer between the east and west sides of Main Street.

It was in the summer about the turn of the century that Stirling and Crawford challenged M. P. Bromeling to a series of five baseball games; they would use the employees of their large store and give Mr. Bromeling the balance of the town to select from.

The grocery firm was rather "quick-on-the-trigger" and hired five or six of the high school team to work for them at intervals. The opposition did not get sore. It was all in fun and for good clean entertainment. Mert's team was composed of older fellows who had "seen better days" on the ball diamond but were willing to take on the kids with the one thought in mind—"may the better team win." I believe Wat Stirling of the firm played shortstop. About the other fellows—my memory fails me. Mert pitched for his team and Ed Hoyt caught. The writer was a member of the Bromeling team.

At the second game the Stirling and Crawford team was uniformed—white bib overalls with the letters S and C across the breast, white shirts and caps; they received a good hand when they made their appearance. The Bromeling boys wore misfits but we concluded we would give our opponents a surprise. Members of the team purchased the material and our girls made the uniforms for us. The blouse or shirt was of a dark maroon, with elbow sleeves and an open collar. The pants were of a figured material of large design, made bloomer style with elastic around the waist and knees. What an applause when we took the field!

The series stood two games each and I believe the stores closed for the finals. Some mob! The reader may think it is "sour grapes" but I do not remember who took the series, but there is one incident that is quite vivid in the writer's mind. I had just hit a ball

in deep left over the fielder's head. The ball was relayed quicker than anticipated and I tried to make third base. As I rounded second, Wat got the ball and rather than throw it, he started a foot race. The writer, as you know, is long-gearred and naturally his stride resembled more the movements of a draft horse as his feet went "clump, clump, clump" when they hit the turf. Wat was short and very active. I could hear his feet go "pit-pat, pit-pat" coming behind me. He overhauled me about five feet from third. The incident caused a lot of merriment.

CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL

Under this category the writer hesitates to depict individuals, as our high school has been represented by some mighty fine teams which were manned by those more athletically inclined than others; yet those willing to go into absolute training and adhere strictly to the rules as laid down by school ethics were given a chance to show their prowess. They were often called upon to fill a niche in some particular position where they proved to be a spark plug and elevated the morale of the entire squad; however, I shall be obliged to deviate slightly in my narration. I want the reader to know I am "playing no favorites." Some individuals will be mentioned; there is also a photo of an outstanding team. The reader should realize that the writer cannot praise each star or team, for if he did this would be a whole volume on school athletics.

The people of this state and perhaps many in the nation will never cease talking about Fielding H. Yost's point-a-minute team at the University of Michigan. We never had a team that good, but the one that represented the schools in 1913 held an enviable record. In the ten games played that fall, they rolled up 334 points to their opponents' 27 during a playing time of 580 minutes, or a point every 1.736 minutes. Some record for a high school!

The fathers of the boys on the team made it possible for them and their chums to witness college football games, and thus the majority of the team had witnessed State and the University of Michigan in action.

Foster Fraker, a graduate of Alma College, was secured as coach, and the high school annual (The Mascot) of 1914, had

this to say: "Foster Fraker of Alma College has proven himself to be an energetic, up-to-date and thoroughly good athletic coach, who is held in high esteem by every high school man who has been in training under him. He is full of pep and in a very clever manner has succeeded in instilling this winning spirit together with necessary wherewithals into his men." Harmony reigned supreme and thus a perfect scoring machine was developed.

The smallest score attained was at Marshall, October 11, a game which resulted six to nothing. The biggest slaughter was at Hastings, November 8, the score being seventy-seven to nothing.

The boys got so "cocky" that they not only told the opposing team where the play was going, but those on the side lines as well, and with the snap of the ball the play, with no signals, was executed perfectly. Several of the strongest teams in the state were challenged for a Thanksgiving game but these teams had games scheduled or had disbanded for the season. It was rumored at that time that Detroit Central was one of the teams contacted but to no avail. The idea was advanced by local enthusiasts that Detroit had everything to lose and nothing to gain and, if they were defeated, it would be most humiliating to lose to a small-town school. Here is the "low-down" on the team: the ends, though small men and very light, were deadly tacklers and always got their man. The line was not easily penetrated, but had the ability to open up holes for the backfield which moved as a unit not often stopped in making substantial gains.

The personnel of the team: Clarence Williams, Right End; Clifford Wooten, Right Tackle; George Egan, Right Guard; Ralph Hale, Center; Clifford Weimer, Left Guard; Donald Stimson,* Left Tackle; Cecil Farrand, Left End; Donald Sheets,* Quarterback; Joe Lambert,* Right Halfback; Kenneth Maupin,* Left Halfback; Mark Pasco, Fullback; Substitutes, Norald Casler, Harold Hudson, Layton Maupin, *and Roy Mellon.

* DECEASED

Sheets was the spark-plug of the team and was considered to be one of the best high school quarterbacks in the state.

The following fall Sheets, Lambert, Hale and Pasco attended

Albion College. In those days the "Big Ten" had not been formed and the University of Michigan eleven generally played a warm-up game with the Albion College team. When Fielding H. Yost saw our boys in action he asked Coach Kennedy where they were from. Kennedy replied, "They are from that crack Eaton Rapids team of the previous year." Yost responded, "Had I seen them first they would have been playing at the University."

BASKETBALL

Basketball started here in 1906 through the efforts of Harry Frost, a junior (now a teacher of mathematics in the Chicago school system), who purchased a ball with the rules and regulations of the game, and set up a court at the third ward school-house which had been abandoned. Miss Helen Stirling organized girls' teams at the same time. The game became very popular in the schools.

In 1909 a county Y. M. C. A. was organized and the young men here that belonged to the Association organized a half-dozen teams and played in the Red Ribbon Hall.

This game at once became associated with the schools and has grown in popularity until it is one of the predominant sports in the nation.

For years both boys' and girls' teams played teams from other schools on the same evening until 1924, when the girls' teams were discontinued. Since the completion of the high school building in 1923 all contests have been held in the gymnasium.

It will be impossible to give the names of all local stars who have represented the schools, but I shall give a brief account of the two teams that played in the State finals. In 1924, the team of that year attended the divisional tournament at East Lansing and lost in an overtime game with Mt. Pleasant. About 700 rooters accompanied the team with three yell masters, J. Homer Topliff, "Little" John Worden and the writer.

The 1925 team was champion of the schools in this area which entitled it to compete in the district meeting held in Ypsilanti. From the files of the Eaton Rapids Journal of March, 1925, I quote the following:

"The fast Eaton Rapids high school basketball team won the Class B district basketball tournament at Ypsilanti last week by defeating St. Mary's of Orchard Lake by 18 to 16, Redford 28 to 17, Dearborn 33 to 10 and the final game for the title was won from Birmingham by a score of 26 to 13. The players who helped to make this team outstanding were Bob Eldred, Verle Milbourn, Ivan Henry, Vern Henry, Sinclair DeGolia, Joe Fleming, Jack Davidson and Bruce Peterson. Eldred's great floor work was the best seen on the Normal floor this season and Fleming was considered the best guard in the Tournament." About 200 Eaton Rapids fans witnessed the Birmingham game.

In those days the runner-up was entitled to play in the next tournament, which was the State contest held in Ann Arbor. Birmingham was the team to qualify. They and our team were opponents again, but this time the table was turned—our team went down to defeat.

From the files of the Eaton Rapids Journal of March, 1925, I quote the following:

"In what appeared to be the sad case of "going stale," Birmingham (defeated by Eaton Rapids two weeks ago 26-13 in the district tournament) defeated the locals 20-16 in the State basketball tournament at Ann Arbor Friday nite, making a sad ending for Eaton Rapids' most glorious year in basketball."

In 1927 another team fought their way to the top. They won this honor by defeating all schools in this area.

In the district tournament held in East Lansing, the boys won over East Lansing, Williamston and Mason, and in the regional in Ypsilanti, over Tecumseh, Dundee and Roosevelt High (Ypsilanti). The local team went to Detroit for the State Tournament where they played Shelby. At the half, the score was 7 to 14 in favor of our team. A substitution was made in the local lineup at the beginning of the second half and Shelby took advantage of it. Before the regular local team could be returned to the game and warmed up, Shelby jumped into the lead and never was topped. The final score was Shelby 21; Eaton Rapids 17. Glen Righter was the local coach and Earl Sindecuse, principal. Several local enthusiasts made the trip with the team. It was rumored

that pressure was brought upon the coach to make the substitution, which he very reluctantly did. The consensus of opinion was, had Coach Righter been left alone, the team would have been victorious.

The personnel of the team follows: Howard Bentley, Wilford Gray, Bert Zavitz, Rollo Haite, Don Reese, George Hawley, William Browne, Harold Howe and Neil Mendell.

THE CONGREGATIONAL STARS

In 1926, John B. Davidson selected the outstanding players who had finished school and organized the Congregational Stars. They had contests with many Class A teams in the State.

The personnel of the team: John (Jack) Davidson, Verne Henry, Bruce Peterson, Warren Hall, Carl (Abe) Hamman, Ivan Henry, Rollo Haite, and Harold Reese.

Girls' Basketball

The only means of obtaining any data on the girls' basketball teams is by referring to the annuals that were published during their existence. These are very incomplete, but the team of 1915-16 seems to hold the edge from the information at hand.

They played eight games, won four, lost three, and tied one, scoring ninety-five points to their opponents' ninety-one. The teams played were Vermontville, Charlotte, Albion, Owosso, Battle Creek, and the Alumni team.

The personnel of the team was:

Mildred Bowers, Florence Cosgray, Beryl Towns, Marie Shufelt, Irma Starring, Ruby Bateman, Vera Bateman, and Alice Hamlin. Miss Laura M. Overholt was the coach.

INDOOR BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

There is no approximate time available when indoor baseball started, but it was before the advent of the present century, and it was inaugurated in order that baseball might continue through the winter season.

Each team was composed of ten men—two shortstops—and the games were played in the larger cities that supported gymnasiums and those in which there was a company of Michigan State Troops which made their armories available. In 1909, during the time when there was a county Y.M.C.A., there were several

teams here and they played in the Red Ribbon Hall.

The present softball in vogue today is the off-spring of indoor baseball and has become a national pastime. The same size softball is still in use since the inception of the game.

In 1938 Eaton Rapids was a softball center in this area, there being fourteen teams, nine in the city and one each in Aurelius, Onondaga, Springport, Duck Lake, and Narrow Lake. Three diamonds were used—two on the athletic field and the Horner field.

Since that time the number of teams has diminished, but largely through the efforts of L. L. McNamara and Arthur Colestock, the area has been well represented in the organized Softball Association.

McNamara Auto Sales and the Independents of this city, two teams from Aurelius and one each from Onondaga and Pottsville composed the teams from this area during the past season (1950). The McNamaras won trophies at the regional tournament held at St. Johns, and the divisional in this city, but they were eliminated by Sturgis at the state meet held in Lansing.



THE LINCOLNS, CHAMPION KID BASEBALL TEAM OF EARLY 1890's

TOP ROW: Herbert Hoffman, Jesse Stringham, Jerome Waggoner, Claude Edgar. CENTER: Charles A. Hughes, captain; Clark L. Belnap, M. P. Bromeling, manager; William Dodds, Wilbur Hoffman. LOWER ROW: James Caffrey, Glen Hughes, mascot.



CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM OF 1913

TOP ROW: Nard Casler, Ralph Hale, Clifford Wooten, George Egan, Harold Hudson. CENTER ROW: Clarence Williams, Clifford Weimer, Joe Lambert, Kenneth Maupin, Donald Stimson, Foster Fraker, coach. LOWER ROW: Cecil Farrand, Mark Pasco, captain; Donald Sheets.

ENTERTAINMENT

Winter Sports

Time—sixty years ago (1887-88). In those days it was not an unusual occurrence to have between two or three feet of snow on the level, sleighing for 100 days, ice two feet thick on the streams, and the French had pawned that fashionable epidemic of theirs known as “LaGrippe” on us.

As a rule, our heavy snow started in December and it snowed almost continuously for six weeks, when our January thaw took place. This was generally accompanied by rain, after which zero weather reigned supreme, causing a heavy crust of snow—just what the kids had been waiting for. The crust was of such thickness we could skate anywhere, over fences completely submerged by snow drifts, through ravines and wood lots, and a jaunt as a rule was crosscountry to some nearby hamlet or village. Those were the days when we clambered into a bob-sled and took in a social, singing school, or some district school for a spelling match.

One of our diversions was sliding down “Bragg’s Hill” (one mile west of the city on M-50). As a rule Ed Horner, Charley Stimson, Orrin Dutton, George P. Rogers, Bert Allen and Ernest Marshall were the “ring-leaders” in this. Two bob-sleds were borrowed from nearby farmers, the wagon-box reversed on the sleigh, the end-boards taken out and the tongue swung over back. One of the fellows stood in the back part of the box, held the tongue tightly and steered the sleigh down the hill. It didn’t make much difference how we piled into the box, just so we got in. The ride generally ended at the point where the Consumers Power Company’s building now stands. A farmer with his team was hired to haul the sleighs back up the hill.

We kids in the south end had our favorite slide. In those days grain was transported to the grain elevator by means of a wooden

bridge extending from the ground to the second story. In the stillness of the night we carried water and drenched the incline thoroughly and the elements did the rest. This made it rather hazardous for horses to make the climb and we should have had our pants blistered for this trick, but I do not recall that we ever did.

Ice horse-racing was indulged in almost every winter on the river. There were two or three trenches made by banking the snow, which divided the course in which each horse traveled. The starting point was at the Boiling Springs and the course ended at East Broad Street.

When the ice was not thick enough for this sport South Main Street was used from the Michigan Central Railroad tracks to the Red Ribbon Hall. There was a Baptist minister by the name of James Goodman here at that time who owned a mighty fine fleet-footed horse. His wife was a very fine equestrienne and dearly loved to race horses. Local men who had good steppers were Sol Middleton, who operated a saloon; Al Newman, a colored barber; and Charles Vail, a harness merchant. Mrs. Goodman would race any of them or all of them at any time, and her steed was always up at the front. The sidewalks were always lined with people enjoying these contests.

It was February 22, 1888, when the school board decreed that Washington’s Birthday would not be observed by the school. The boys in the high school thought differently. They assembled on the ice above the dam and by a vote decided to leave for Onondaga when the last bell rang for school to begin. The lone boy in the school that morning was Wilbur Engle, the Methodist minister’s son, and an A-1 student. Some of the bad boys that were leaders in the escapade were William A. Horner, William L. Hurd, Edwy K. Shaw, Louis C. Van Gorden, George Van Deusen, Clarence P. Springer, Ernest J. Gifford, Edson H. Gibbs, and the writer. Our numbers were increased by William H. Perrine, Peter McArthur, Fayette Champlain, Frank Taylor, George B. Cowan and a colored lad by the name of Bennie Davis, a wizard on skates. They offered to act as our escort and pace-makers.

Our first obstacle was Perrin’s dam (Smithville), which was

in ruins, but that was easily overcome. We ran on to two riffles which caused the river to be open and we were forced to take to the land a short distance in either case. One by one our numbers had decreased, and when our destination was reached only ten answered the call. Four of them returned by the ice route, but the day was very warm, and fearing the ice would be too brittle, the balance of us returned home by train. There was no school that afternoon.

In those days we cleared all of the snow from the ice ourselves and generally had a half dozen places to skate.

One winter the Knights of Pythias held a three-evening carnival on the ice above the dam. They erected a tent and inclosed a stove to make it more convenient for those participating to put on their skates and also to get warm. The rink was illuminated with electric lights. Hot dogs, hamburgers, donuts and coffee were on sale. There were all kinds of events held and very liberal prizes awarded. The event was patronized by many people from nearby cities. It was not considered worthwhile so it was discontinued.

The Toboggan Slide

It was before the beginning of the century (1900), when ice palaces and tobogganing were so popular in Canada and the northwestern states (especially Minnesota), that the craze struck Michigan. As usual, our little city was selected as an advantageous point to erect a toboggan slide on account of the river which when frozen over, would form the bed for the speed-way trough or track, by which the toboggan was kept in place after leaving the chute.

It was erected on the bank west of the manual training school building and its course was up Spring Brook toward the railroad bridge. The frame was made of four by four inch oak timbers and stood about twenty feet high on the bank making it practically thirty feet in height, and the incline was about fifty feet from the top to the point where it reached the ice. There were two chutes, each about twenty inches wide; the base and six inch sides of the chute were pine. It did not prove very popular as

it was not well-patronized by the older people, and the younger folks could not afford the luxurious sport, as we had only our sleds, so it was torn down after the first year.

The following winter we kids, Jay and Herman Swift, Harry and Percy Silsbee, and the writer, decided to erect a toboggan slide of our own. We obtained permission of G. B. Blair to build our slide on his property, located at the foot of West Plain Street and across the Lake Shore tracks. The setting was ideal. It was about half as high as the one previously built; its direction was north on a bayou of Spring Brook and then out onto the channel of the stream. Our toboggans were hand-made; yet they answered the purpose well, as they were built for the pleasure of the owners and their friends. There was some difficulty about the ice getting strong enough to hold up the toboggan and its load. The last trip was made by a couple of the owners. When the ice was reached the toboggan went under it and the passengers slid about twenty feet on their "fannies." The ice gave away and they were plunged into muddy water up to their armpits. With our assistance they reached the shore with the toboggan. That was the end.

In the banks around the bayou were located the winter houses of the muskrat, turtles, etc., and their activity going to and from the quarters hindered the ice in reaching any degree of thickness. We were disconsolate at our failure but much wiser with our experience.

In the early nineteen hundreds, after World War I, a bathing beach was made, above and at the west end of the sanitary dam of the river opposite the second island. Gravel and sand were placed into the stream for several feet and along the west bank. A water slide was erected, and with the aid of roller toboggans, furnished enjoyment to many people during the summer season, but all things must sooner or later come to an end. People began throwing all kinds of rubbish and foul matter into the stream. The pollution became so prevalent that it was thought advisable to have the water tested, and it was proven to be unsanitary and unfit for a bathing beach. Thus another pleasure was denied the common people.

The Skating Rink

It was in the '80's that roller skating rinks were springing up like mushrooms in the majority of villages and cities in the state, and we were not slow in falling in line.

A gentleman by the name of Watkins, a short, stout, good-natured fellow whom we kids dubbed "Poddy" Watkins, saw a fine opening here for the popular sport and built a mighty fine rink. It was located immediately south of the present C. J. Moore implement store, being about 60 by 140 feet in dimensions with the skating area made of the best matched maple flooring obtainable.

As a rule there were three objectives in each city, a racer, a fancy skater, and a polo team. We qualified for all of them. G. Frank Kenney was the State Champion in racing; he wrested the title from Elliott Gale of Albion in a two-out-of-three contest. Each had a diversified manner in racing. Kenney used a short, choppy, foot-over-foot style after rounding the corners, and then four or five long strokes, then the corner. Gale was tall and rangy; as he completed the turn he leaped into the air and with about four long strides, his skates barely touching the floor, he completed the straight runway and then the turn. It was a very exciting contest. The final race was held here.

P. W. Williams was captain of the polo team (consisting of twelve men) which was quite successful in its winnings with teams in this area. The players' suits were long white tights, white shirts and black trunks. Mr. Williams was also the best fancy skater in the city, but never gave any exhibitions. He taught Miss Ida Merritt (later Mrs. Frank Stahl of Lansing) his complete repertoire and she was conceded the best fancy child-skater in the state. It shows what a good sport he was, as he wanted his protegee to receive all the glory that was hers, regardless of his prowess.

It was not an uncommon thing to have both Kenney and Miss Merritt appear in the same city in their respective roles, provided anyone would compete with the former.

From the *Eaton Rapids Journal* under the date February 17, 1885, we quote the following: "Frank Kenney of this city skates

a five mile race at the Springport rink tomorrow night for a purse of \$25. Little Ida Merritt will give a skating exhibition Saturday night with skates unbuckled and unclasped."

The Eaton Rapids Driving Park Association

It would hardly seem possible that an association of this kind would be formed without the election of officers, but in making a thorough check-up in the local paper printed during its existence, no mention is found of any officers being in charge of affairs, yet a complete account of the annual meeting is given and also the judges in charge of the races. The following gentlemen were enthusiastic equestrians and were, without a doubt, sponsors of the movement, viz.: Porter Knowles, Julius Baldwin, H. H. Hamilton, F. Z. Hamilton, William Smith, H. P. Webster, George Webster, Sol Middleton, Scott Montgomery, F. H. DeGolia, Alanson Osborn, M. L. Clark, Morris Belnap, and scores of others. There was a considerable amount of money involved in this venture so there must have been an organization of some nature.

The issue of the *Eaton Rapids Journal* under date of March 10, 1880, speaks of a meeting being held and announces another for April 2, 1880, to plan for the construction of the track. Between this date and April 20, 1200 loads of dirt were moved onto the track, the grading was practically completed and the track inclosed in fences. The work was accomplished in the nature of a bee. Everyone in the immediate vicinity was invited to participate, bring teams, shovels, and rakes. A dinner was served each day. There were two rather large knolls nearby at different points, so the haul was not a long one and the work progressed rapidly.

The first race was held May 26, 1880. Five horses were entered and the best time was 3:06. Probably the slowness of time was caused by the track's not being thoroughly settled.

The result of the race was as follows:

J. Baldwin	1st	30 bushel of oats
Webster Bros., (Hiram & Geo.)	2nd	20 bushel of oats
Morris Belnap	3rd	15 bushel of oats
William Smith.....	4th	10 bushel of oats

On June 11, 1880, the grand stand was started. It took three cars of lumber (30,000 feet). A. H. Wheat and M. Tyler, local carpenters, were the contractors. There were local businessmen and many from the vicinity who donated their services in order to rush its completion. The stalls for the horses entering the races were also completed at this time.

A trotting match (3:15 class) was held June 19, 1880, with five entrants. A. T. Ingalls of Leslie, William Miller and Frank Birney of this city, were judges. The race (three heats) was won by Deception, owned and driven by J. A. Baldwin, the best time being 2:41 7/8—the purses \$25, \$12, \$8, and \$5.

A race was scheduled to take place on the Charlotte track on June 25, 1880, between J. A. Baldwin's "Deception" and "Thomas S." owned by Schuler Brothers of that place. The bet or wager was \$100 for each side with a \$50 deposit should either forfeit the race. The Charlotte parties very reluctantly withdrew, but paid the forfeit.

The first meeting was held September 1, 2, 3, 4, 1880, the judges being Charles Nicholson of Jackson, F. H. DeGolia, and H. H. Hamilton of this city, assisted by A. E. Sutton, also of Jackson. The largest event on the card each day follows:

Wednesday	3:15 trot—best time 2:41½.....	Purse \$300
Thursday	2:37 trot—best time 2:40	Purse \$300
Friday	2:36 trot—best time 2:42	Purse \$300
Saturday	Free for all	Purse \$250
	Running races	Purse \$100

These races became very popular and were drawing large crowds; in fact, they were the starting of the Blue Ribbon Circuit which included several other cities. Larger cities kept cutting in, which made it difficult for the smaller ones to cope with the situation. An alliance was formed among Marshall, Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Mason, St. Johns and several other cities in the association, to protect the popular sport they had worked to plan and maintain, but the larger places, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Lansing, Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint, hung up larger purses and naturally crowded the smaller ones out. Then after five years of operating a successful and profitable race meet,

they were forced to cease their operation. However, good races were held during the Fair and became very popular until the Society was disbanded in 1893. F. H. DeGolia was generally the starting judge for the Fair meetings.

Some of the local horses worthy of note and the names of their owners follow: "Old Stranger," Porter Knowles; "Pocahontas Prince," Charles S. Cobb; "William S.," William Smith; "Walnut," A. Newman; and, "Fedora," George Webster. The latter mare was driven by Mr. Webster's son, Claude Webster, who was just a "kid" and too young for that sport, but he was a fine driver and won several races. She threw a stifle and her future in racing circles was brought to a close. She was used as a brood mare, and foaled some exceptional colts, one bearing the name of "Fedora's Athel."

"Pocahontas Prince" was a beautiful black stallion, rather large, but he had won several races in good time. He was entered in a race in Kentucky, and the driver, Ed Culver, was sure he had a fine chance of placing him well to the front. It had rained, making the track heavy, but that didn't worry the "big boy" at all. In fact, the other drivers were afraid of his winning, so ganged up on Culver, smashed his sulky and caused the horse to run away. The horse was cut up quite badly and did not re-enter the race. It is the opinion of the writer that this was his last race.

The Boiling Springs

What is there so unusual about a boiling spring? Where is it located and why should it be referred to with special significance? It is a landmark situated at the bend of the river on the north shore of the Grand adjacent to the Campground and in later years was protected by title. "In the early days its name was referred to as often as the village itself," remarked an old timer, and some have advanced the theory that it was a hallowed spot and held sacred by the Indians, who pitched their tepees in "Indian Village" there for many years.

On a sunny afternoon, mothers would lead their progenies through the fields to the natural phenomenon, where they

watched the crystal water come bubbling up through the white sand, and were allowed to drink of it to their heart's content, after which they reclined on the velvety green grass shaded by the prevailing burr oak until the sun was slowly sinking in the west. A nimrod casting his fly to attract the attention of the finny tribe, for which the Grand was noted at that time, would stop and quench his thirst from the sparkling pool. Lovers would meet there, lay plans for their nuptial day, and wonder what fate might have in store for them down through the years. Picnic parties would pause and fill their containers with the ever-flowing spring water as they wended their way to the popular rendezvous (Perrine's Woods) where the wintergreen plants with their palatable red berries abounded. But now all is changed and those happy scenes are held most dear only by a couple of scores of persons who are covering the last lap in the "March of Time."

It was in the year 1879 that boating became popular and was participated in principally by those who owned their own craft and made the Boiling Springs their objective.

Kendall Kittridge purchased the Eaton Rapids Journal that year, and, being an ardent lover of the pastime, had a fleet of boats built and placed them on the river for hire. He sold his paper six years later and disposed of his boat interests to George V. Meseroll who enlarged his fleet considerably and operated it successfully until his death.

About that time this style of craft became practically obsolete and the canoe became the popular means of transportation, especially for the younger set. G. E. LaFever operated a canoe livery for a few years, but like everything else, when the automobile entered the picture and became the outstanding means of pleasure and transportation, the boating on the beautiful Grand passed into oblivion.

In 1913 Heileman O. Miller purchased two acres of land that included the springs and spared no pains in keeping it in good repair. He built a California bungalow on the site and piped the water into the house by means of an electric motor. The Millers made this their home for about fifteen years.

Local Theatricals

Very little mention is made of local plays or theatricals in the early days, although dialogues, short skits and playlets were produced in a few of the rural schools, "the little red school house on the hill," and the Union Hall at its completion. As a rule these entertainments were climaxed with a tableau. For fear the reader will not grasp the full meaning of the term, I quote the following: "A tableau is a representation of some scene by the grouping of persons who remain silent and motionless in appropriate postures." To add to the beauty of the scene, burning lights of a brilliant hue, produced by the combination of different inflammable powders so skillfully compounded by some pharmacist or chemist that they would radiate different colors of light when ignited, were placed on either side of the stage behind the flies.

The local theatricals did not really function until 1879 when the Red Ribbon Hall was constructed. Several ladies had taken elocution lessons and were apparently ready to don the grease paint, the more prominent ones being Mesdames Alanson Osborn, Charles E. Merritt, Samuel M. Wilkins, William Miller, the Misses Jennie Boardman, Lizzie Van Syckle, Gertrude Merritt, Lizzie Wilkins, Lola Todd and Addie Miller.

Mrs. Miller was the foremost dialogist of the ladies and for many years no entertainment seemed quite complete until "Celestia" Miller had given her favorite soliloquy, "Josiah Allen's Wife." She dressed the part, impersonated her to perfection, and generally had her audiences practically rolling in the aisles. She concluded her skit with a song which had numberless verses (many of her own composition) with the following chorus:

*"Wait for the wagging
Wait for the wagging
The Old Jackson wagging,
And we'll all take a ride."*

On one occasion she was taken quite ill and was unable to take part, but the "show must go on" and "Josiah Allen's Wife" appeared as usual. After responding to several encores the performer returned from the wings with a transformation and bonnet

in her hands. Addie Miller had substituted for her mother. She was attired in her mother's dress, shawl, teeth blocked out, with an "ambrilly" in her hand, and had impersonated her mother so cleverly that none was the wiser until she disclosed her identity. After the passing of her mother, Addie repeated the performance only on a very few occasions.

The male performers who took prominent roles in plays were: Horace S. Maynard, Michael Kenney, Dr. Lloyd Davis, Ernest Brewster, Charlie Segar, Norman Widger, Win Ashley and Lou J. Burch. At that time the Civil War had been over about ten years, and such plays as "The Union Spy," "The Spy of Shilo," "The Battle of the Wilderness," "Sherman's March to the Sea" seemed to predominate. Those persons to whom parts had been assigned put their body and soul into their respective lines. The uniforms and paraphernalia that were available at that time made a perfect setting for the different plays. The characters were so well depicted that the production seemed the portrayal of the real conflict.

As the years progressed, other organizations, fraternal societies and the Alumni Association gave occasional productions; at the present time the students in the high school stage three or four plays annually and show considerable ability in their respective roles. They are directed by some members of the faculty who are skilled in dramatics.

The Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters held the edge on all others in staging minstrel shows. The chorus work was of the highest order, as those taking part were the soloists of our city, but these organizations laid aside the "burnt cork" some years ago.

Since the advent of the moving pictures, very few shows visit the smaller cities, yet nearly every summer the tent shows of Jack Kelly or Vern Slout visit us for a week with a variety of the lighter dramas.

In this connection we must not overlook the cantatas staged by the different churches of the city, the more prominent scores being "The Hay Makers," "The Pinafore," "Jeptha's Daughter" and "Queen Esther." It was in the winter of 1888 that Myron W.

Cobb of Battle Creek produced a very elaborate production of "Queen Esther," about fifty persons taking part, all clad in the prevailing costumes of that period.

Those selected for the principal roles were: Amos Skinner, King Ahasuerus; Mrs. L. W. Toles, Queen Esther; William F. Stirling, Haman; Miss Jeanette Hosler, Zerish—his wife; Homer Potter, Mordecai; J. W. French, Harbonah, a Chamberlain.

About twenty years later it was produced in a very commendable manner and those selected for the solo parts were: W. Scott Munn, King Ahasuerus; Miss Bertha Wagner (Mrs. W. Scott Munn) Queen Esther; Harry D. Bennett, Haman; Mrs. Bert Littell, Zerish, his wife; Roy D. Wagner, Mordecai; Mrs. Adam Clark, Mordecai's sister; M. D. Crawford, Harbonah, a Chamberlain.

Perhaps the best musical organizations in the city at this time were the two quartets; The Ladies Quartette consisted of Miss Mary Derby, first soprano; Miss Birdie Blodgett (Beasore) second soprano; Miss Bernice Knapp (Knapp) first alto and Miss Anna Markham (Hartenburg) second alto. The Male Quartet was in existence for many years and filled engagements in Lyceum entertainments. The members were: Henry A. Goodrich, first tenor, G. Alva Rice, second tenor; Carl C. McClelland, bass, and W. Scott Munn, baritone.

The local soloist that made the headlines was Mrs. Marie White-Longman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. White. She was a graduate of Olivet College and possessed a very fine contralto voice. She traveled extensively on concert tours in the leading cities of the United States.

The Movies

It is not generally known, but Eaton Rapids was the first place in Eaton County to have a movie theatre.

It was about the advent of the century that Erma Vickery installed a movie projector and screen in the Birney Building (now the Vaughan Store). The films were generally short skits; a feature was a popular song by some local girl and colored slides were thrown on the screen to illustrate the song. Miss Florence

Bennett (now Mrs. Rolo Baker of Lansing), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Bennett, sang there for some time. A piano was played during the picture; folding chairs were used for the audience to sit in and each performance lasted about a half-hour. The admission fee was ten cents for adults and five cents for children although the price did not prevail very long. It was known as the Vaudette.

Miss Vickery made a success of her venture and in a few years erected the Vickery Block, installed new equipment and theatre seats. It was located at the present site of the Eaton Restaurant. Clare W. Greene and Homer Myers operated a bakery in the north store.

At her death the property was purchased by Milton Klinkle of Hudson.

About this time Guy Woodruff opened the Air-Dome (present site of the Standard Oil Station). It was an open air theatre and during inclement weather was operated in conjunction with one he owned where the PX War Mart store is now located.

Grant Muir of Hastings built a small movie house. It is now the north portion of the Ford Motor Car Garage.

Ezra Dodge, a local boy, started his moving picture career here; later he moved to Hudson, where he built a fine theatre which he and his wife operated for more than thirty years. They have retired and live at Manitou Beach, Michigan, in the summer and in Florida during the winter. He is the son of John S. Dodge who lived on the Aurelius road and conducted a large stock farm, now owned by G. F. Haskell. He was one of the staunch Jeffersonian Democrats of his day.

Thomas Whitehead of Lansing later built the Capitol Theater on the vacant property south of the National Bank of Eaton Rapids, which the family operated for more than ten years.

It was sold to Fred Lewis of Yankee Springs, Michigan, who conducted it for a like period; he sold it to C. R. Beechler of Charlotte who ran it for several years until he built the beautiful "Rapids" Theatre on West Hamlin Street, one of the finest in this part of the state.

CIRCUSES

"Hey! fellows—look! A circus is coming to town!" That is the cry we kids shouted up and down the street, as we watched the advance men, plastering every available space they could find with their heralds, picturing the most perilous acts ever to be accomplished, and also announcing the day and date they would unfurl the big top on the circus grounds.

This was in the '70's and '80's when our little village was considered a profitable show town and was visited at different intervals by such well-known organizations as Ringling Brothers, John Robinson, Sells Brothers, Wallace and Hagenback, Sells and Rentfrow and many smaller ones. We were too small for Barnum and Bailey. The circus grounds in those days were on the Commons located on the east side of the river.

There is a pleasing incident the writer would like to relate. It happened before the wall was placed on either side of the river between the State Street bridge and the dam. The George L. Pettit Sr. home was the only residence east of the river in that block. It was Circus Day. The unloading at the Michigan Central yards had attracted hundreds in this area to witness the skilled manner in which is exhibited the precision and intricate detail of all those assigned to do the labor. The elephants were the last to be brought out. The line of march was formed in single file, the trunk of the second elephant being wound around the tail of the one in front, and so on down the line, there being about twelve in the procession. When the bridge was reached, the "big bull" that was in the lead stopped, tested the bridge carefully. He decided it was not safe and, quick as a flash, wheeled and ran down the bank into the river, the balance of the herd following him. They made for the deepest spot, which was next to the dam, and there they played for some time, being totally submerged with just the tip of their trunks in sight, which enabled them to breathe. The trainers did not seem to be disturbed in the least. "They will come out as soon as they complete

their escapade," remarked the one in charge. "Our problem now is to get them headed in the right direction." This did not seem difficult when the animals concluded their lark and emerged from the water.

Almost every place has some people that would like to cast their lot with the "saw-dust trail," and our little city was no exception.

The dean of the number, Charles Benton (better known here as Charley Bentley) was in the game continuously for sixty years and it was not an uncommon thing for him to show his agility as an acrobat at the age of seventy-five.

Born in North Aurelius, Ingham County, in 1861, he received his early training on the parental farm, attended the district school, paid very little attention to the pranks of the school children, but busied himself on the bar, in the rings, with somersets, hand springs, et cetera. Silas Barnes, a friend, saw him go through his repertoire and encouraged him in such a manner that he took it up for a profession. Piece by piece he accumulated his paraphernalia and, although but a lad in his teens, decided to make the venture. This was in 1875.

His first entertainments consisted of vaudeville, including some excellent trained dogs, and stereoptican views; greatly enlarged by means of a lantern. He followed this line all through his career, always changing and improving his vaudeville, and installed moving pictures as soon as they came into vogue, and later the talkies. He exhibited the best movies available, as his slogan was "Give the people their money's worth."

He never deviated from this program but once, and then when Fred L. Godding, a local theatre man, joined him and they put on a Wild West show. It was a success both as to entertainment and financially, but it was not up to Mr. Bentley's idea of a show and was closed that fall.

In 1935 Mr. Bentley's granddaughters, the Misses June and Janice Butler, professional ballet dancers, joined the show and "rang the bell" at every performance. However, as they had their own dance studios in Lansing, they decided it was up to them to look after their own interests and did not accompany him the next season.

Mr. Bentley had a very bad impediment in his speech, and at times could hardly utter a word. This disgusted him in no small way, and as a result he used to drop his r's like a Southerner. As to his ability to draw a crowd he would say "By—the people like a flash—give me a good brass band and some banners and I'll fill the tent to the doors."

He was a natural mechanic and worked with both metal and wood, and had a well-equipped machine shop at his home in Petrieville. He was never idle, and during the winter, when not busy with commercial work, was manufacturing something novel for his show.

One of his most unique contraptions was a marimba with the sounding tubes reversed and made stationary on the top of the instrument. In front and attached to the marimba was an ordinary organ key-board or console, electric hammers being attached to each key and swung underneath the console. The operator played it the same as an organ, and when each key was touched a contact was made and the hammer was thrown upwards, striking the same key on the marimba from the bottom. The music was rich and mellow and was an attractive drawing card.

Another was a globe about eight feet in diameter, made of several thicknesses of papier-mache. Upon the surface was painted in colors every country and name,—an exact replica of the globes used in teaching in the schools. This was set on a chassis and was his ticket office. Very novel. His miniature village, about four by eight feet, also set upon a chassis, accompanied the show; it was viewed by thousands, and by many was proclaimed one of the best they had ever seen.

The stunt he got the most kick out of was the balloon ascension with Eliza (the dummy) as the skilled acrobat making the trip. The balloon was inflated; Eliza sat gracefully in the trapeze that swung from the parachute which was attached to the balloon by a cord. A time fuse was lighted and set in such a way that at a certain time it would come in contact with the cord, release the parachute, and Eliza always made a perfect landing.

When the first federal postoffice was built in Lansing, Ransom E. Olds had the contract for furnishing the brass strap hinges

on the west door. He was busily occupied at the time and turned the contract over to Mr. Bentley, who punched and bevelled those beautiful hinges that adorn the door and have been in constant use more than fifty years.

Nettie, his beloved wife, was his constant companion and inspiration. There will never be another Charley Bentley—he was a show man. He died in 1950, and Mrs. Bentley in 1952.

Next of kin living is his daughter, Mrs. Neva Butler, of Lansing.

Dave W. Perrine, son of Rue Perrine, a pioneer, was born in Onondaga township, Ingham County, the parental farm being a portion of the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home property. The father operated a stock farm specializing in horses, and the children were brought up to handle them. It is said that Dave and his sister "Kit" would go into the pasture, tackle a couple of colts that never had a strap on, mount them, and race around the field, seemingly not afraid of man or the devil. She became an expert horsewoman. She married Fred Cowhan of Jackson.

In the early '80's, Dave started out with a dog and pony show with which he made a success, giving a diversified entertainment each season. In 1905 he added a Wild West attraction, featuring Tiger Bill and later Bronco Joe. The show was wild and wooly, and exemplified the life on our Western plains in the early days. It featured real Indians, rifle shooting, stage coach, mail robbery, hanging a horse thief, and many other blood-curdling episodes. His tent accommodated about 1500 people, carried a ten-piece band and twenty-five people in the cast.

He was successful in this venture and was cut down at the zenith of his career. He passed on in 1913 of pneumonia.

Next of kin living is his daughter, Mrs. Olive Davenport.

In 1915 Eugene Tracey and George Miller opened a minstrel and vaudeville show, carrying about thirty people and a fine musical organization. On account of the war and not being

able to obtain skilled talent, they did not operate after the second year.

In 1921 Cadwell Robbins, a farmer in the Bunker neighborhood, "threw his hat in the ring" and unfurled his banner to the breeze, and was known as the "Robbins Overland Show." He carried a score of actors besides his band and laborers, and gave his audiences a regular circus with all the frills. The second year was rough going. A farmer does not speak the same language as the "profess," so he bowed out of the picture, and sold out to George Miller, who operated it until 1926 when he disposed of the outfit and joined the Tiger Bill Show, retiring in 1929.

In 1922, J. Dan Pilmore opened up with a large carnival and operated in several states. On account of the magnitude of the outfit and the slump in patronage, it proved to be a losing venture and was not operated after the second year.

The Traceys

Without a doubt the "Dean of Troopers" in this neck of the woods are Eugene Tracey and his wife Mary (Smith) Tracey. Eugene became initiated in 1901 when he was employed in the menagerie division of the Fourpaugh and Sells Show. He had a similar position in 1902 with John Robinson; 1903, Ringling Brothers; and 1904, the Demott Circus. At the time they were married, he did clowning, black face, and character impersonations in vaudeville; she appeared as a contortionist and in vaudeville skits. They are now specializing in a dog, monkey and clown act. Since 1910 they have worked independently, playing fairs and celebrations. They are very popular entertainers and are booked solidly each summer.

Boscoe, the Snake Eater

No one ever knew where this chap came from. He opened up with a carnival and worked out of here several seasons, and disappeared as quietly as he entered. He operated in a pit surrounded by a canvas in which were various kinds of snakes that crawled all over him. Occasionally he would slaughter one and make a bluff at eating it. Whether he did, no one ever cared to find out.

Ed Lewis, the Fat Boy

Ed Lewis was a native of Eaton Rapids, being born just outside the city limits. He attained the weight of 456 pounds and travelled with several different circuses and carnivals as a side show attraction. At one time he was featured with the Addison Giant Baseball team of Addison, Michigan. "Bon" Bostwick, a former Eaton Rapids boy, was the manager of the team.

Beja

There is no question but that the most outstanding personage from our locality to join the tent city and participate in the activities of the saw-dust trail was Beja, the contortionist, who followed it as a vocation for several seasons. Her acrobatic work was so clever that seemingly, before your very eyes, she would tie her body in a double bow-knot, inclose herself in a glass box, so you could see her from all sides. Also she would go through a ten-inch ring double.

Beja's first appearance here was in November, 1899, in vaudeville at the Red Ribbon Hall. She was out with David W. Perrine's show in 1901 and 1902 and played at the Eaton County Fair in Charlotte both falls. The latter year Eaton Rapids held its first homecoming and the writer's musical organization had the pleasure of playing for her act, for which she complimented us highly.

In 1903 and 1904 she joined the John Robinson three-ring circus, and again was booked that fall at the Eaton County Fair as a leading attraction.

Since their arrival here, this city was their adopted home, and during the interim, the mother married Sam Peck, a farmer.

Beja became tired of show life and after her last season with Cole Brothers show, she closed her professional career and came back home to stay with her mother. In 1910 she married Clyde Peck, son of Samuel, and as she says, "In 1913 we purchased our farm which we dearly enjoy."

The Peck's are hospitable people, generous to a fault, and always gracious in assisting those not as fortunate as they.

As to her former career as a contortionist, she has but little to say—"just a pleasing memory." (She passed on in 1950 and her husband in 1952.)

INDEPENDENCE BALL.

The Company of Mr.

and Lady, is requested at the Assembly Room of H. HAMLIN, in Eaton Rapids, on the 4th day of July next, at 8 o'clock P. M.

MANAGERS.

F. SPICER, Eaton Rapids.
C. B. HOWLAND " "
A. MONTGOMERY " "

S. N. SHATTUCK, Jackson.
N. STODDARD, Charlotte.
J. O. DARLING, Mason.

H. HAMLIN, Room Manager.

CHAPMAN & CLAFLIN, Musicians.

Eaton Rapids, June 8th, 1848.



UPPER: Copy of an invitation to the Independence Ball held in Eaton Rapids July 4, 1848. LOWER: Belles of the Gay Nineties. Front row: Kittie Stebbins, Lizzie Wilkins, Mary Vaughn, Bernice Strank. SECOND ROW: Nettie Bentley, Belle Howell, Abbie Harris, May Rhead. THIRD ROW: Mattie Seagraves, Myra Howell, Nellie Kelch, Addie Hartson. TOP ROW: Ethel Hartson, Ella Blacker, Grace DeGolia, Abbie Bender, Zena Hamlin.

SOCIAL LIFE

In conversing with the "old timers" down through the years, one is led to believe that the hamlet or village of Eaton Rapids was up to the minute on every business, professional or social activity in vogue at that period. The reprint of the invitation is evidence that social life has played an important part in the development of our city from its beginning.

Horace Hamlin built the hotel which bore his name (Hamlin House) in 1841-42 and the "Independence Ball" must have been held there. The time, 4:00 o'clock P.M., would seem an unearthly hour to begin a dance, but the writer has been informed that they did conduct their parties in a big way and such affairs often lasted to the "wee small hours of the morning." No one ever heard of Chapman and Claflin—Musicians; whether they were local or imported is a conjecture, and in all probability they changed off in playing first and second violin. The writer knew Fred Spicer of Spicerville, one of the floor managers, very well, and A. Montgomery, another one, was undoubtedly Alexander from the Montgomery Plains.

The invitation was loaned to the writer by Mrs. Malvina Frace, daughter of Rice McCamman, the Eaton County Surveyor for many years, and was issued to his father, J. D. McCamman.

For the next twenty years we must stretch our imagination, as there is not even a clue on which to base any facts, so the interim could be chronicled only on a theoretical basis.

In the late '60's, Jesse DeCoursey, who operated a marble shop here, organized the DeCoursey orchestra. Arthur Ridd and Himan Rolfe played the violins; Morris Tyler the bass fiddle; his son, Sam DeCoursey, the cornet, and daughter Mary the organ or piano. He did the prompting or calling. This was the only local dance orchestra for several years.

In the early days, those prone to manipulating the violin were called "fiddlers" and were unable to read music. They played

by ear and had the vile term of "sled-length-fiddlers" applied to their efforts. Be that as it may, those "old boys" had time and could play the old quadrilles and folk dances in such a manner that those participating could "stomp the tune right out."

The Dernier boys, James B. and Abraham D., of Brookfield township, uncles of the writer, came under this category, yet played well and their services were in demand. Two of Abe's boys, Richard and Charley, followed them in later years and were very often accompanied on the organ by their sister, Mrs. Ella Mae Dernier-Smith. However, Charley saw the advantage of extensive study and is a very proficient musician. His daughter, Mrs. Lorraine Schultz, a graduate of Olivet College, is an excellent musician and teacher of piano. Rufus, Abe's son, was born forty years too soon. He was a clever ventriloquist, an imitator of animals and different types of machinery. For this ability, many so gifted are now receiving thousands of dollars annually.

Two local fiddlers were Lacey T. Disbrow and Dennis Garland.

Eli Saumns of Hamlin township was also very popular. He was accompanied by Clyde Jefferies on the dulcimer and at his death Wilbur Post took his place. When "we kids" wanted an old time "hoe-down" they were employed. Eli called off with the tune and I can almost hear his voice ringing in "Old Red Ribbon Hall" as he sang out "Sashay 'round behind that couple, take hold of hands and forward six." As a rule those orchestras of the '80's were composed of three or four musicians. Those of importance were James Richardson of Lansing, Frank Frazell of Mason, Will Church of Jackson, and I. Cronks of Battle Creek.

There were two lone musicians that were prime favorites, Frank G. Baker, a local law student, on the piano, and Charley Gibson of Owosso on the harp. Generally each summer a band of traveling Italians, playing violin, harp, and flute, would visit the city and play in the street for any little amount the listeners felt like contributing, but they were generally hired for a "hop" that evening, for which they were very liberally compensated. In those days the minuet, as danced by George and Martha Washington, was very popular.

Then came the gay '90's. Almost in the twinkling of an eye the city changed to a social center. The ladies' gowns became almost creations: trains, no sleeves, long white kid gloves, low necks, slippers, flowers, and everything. We fellows up to this time had felt we were dressed in the height of fashion with our English walking coats, white vests, striped trousers, wing collars, Ascot ties, derby hats and canes, but in comparison to the girls' outfits we were practically passe. The results—the change of dress to the “claw hammer,” a shirt with a starched front that would stand alone, military collar and white cravat, white silk gloves, and patent leather kicks—were inevitable. The time seemed to demand larger and better orchestras, which naturally directed our attention to James Troxell of Hastings, Boos Brothers of Jackson, and Charles Fisher of Kalamazoo, they being the outstanding dance orchestras in this part of the state, featuring, as a rule, the latest song hits. Their attire was always conventional.

I often wondered how the old and young people had so much in common that they joined willingly in these social functions, which were a great incentive in holding families more closely together. However, as the years rolled on, the older ones dropped out one by one and their places were filled by the oncoming generation.

It was in the winter of 1908 when Mayor B. H. “Doc” Custer conceived the idea of having an “old time party.” Nearly everyone in the city and community was invited and responded graciously to the call, the Red Ribbon Hall being well-filled. There were as many as forty sets dancing quadrilles at the same time. Many couples advanced in years surprised the younger set by the alertness and agility with which they moved so gracefully over the floor. The writer was asked to engage the music for the occasion and naturally the Boos Orchestra was my selection. I informed them that it was an old time party and to come prepared to play anything and everything, which they did in such a pleasing manner that they received many hearty applauses in the rendition of some familiar airs that had gained recognition in the “hey-day” of their ancestors. In those days I did most of the prompting in

these parts, and it was pleasing to observe the grace and ease that was exhibited in executing the beautiful Lancers, the money-musk, the reels, folk and round dances. Parties like this were few and far between, and today they are trying to revive the old quadrille. More power to them.

Say, old timer, have you forgotten when we helped introduce the Charleston, Rediway, one step and tango? Perhaps they were looked upon as “crazy antics” by those, our seniors. This is a new age and generation; things have changed; we had our good times unmolested. Let's let the young folks of today enjoy themselves in their own sweet way.

An amusing incident happened to the writer about this time, the '90's.

The E. B. Goulds, prosperous farmers living six miles east on the Plain Road, and members of the social set, entertained at a dinner dance. Among those attending were Mr. Gould's sister, a Mrs. Smith, and her five-year-old daughter from Jackson. During the conversation the mother revealed that the daughter was taking dancing lessons and was considered the most graceful student of the minuet in the class. Those present wanted to see the child dance the ancient classic. She must have someone to dance with and consented to accommodate them if she would be allowed to select her partner, to which they agreed.

In those days I had the reputation of shaking a “wicked hoof.” We were all standing around the room waiting for the dance to start when the child confronted me and with a gracious curtsy said, “Mr. Munn, will you accompany me in the minuet?” To which I responded, “With pleasure.” She was ease and grace personified, and I was called upon to exhibit every bit of prowess I possessed to satisfy her expectation and the confidence placed in me to assist her in the portrayal of the slow, graceful dance made famous by the “Father of our Country” and his lady.

The onlookers applauded heartily when the dance was finished, so I believe we must have “strutted our stuff.” Some difference in height? Well,—yes—six feet, three inches, and three feet.

New Year Calls

When this metropolitan custom was inaugurated in our little city, and when it ceased to exist or what caused it to be discontinued I am unable to state, but the popularity of these New Year's calls cannot be overlooked, as it was the outstanding social function that ushered in the New Year.

This observance was confined more particularly to the married people and a few of the older unmarried. Eight or ten ladies would open their homes in the afternoon on New Year's day, and each asked six or eight other ladies to receive with her as assistant hostesses. Occasionally some of the young society "buds" would be invited to act in the capacity of waitresses, serving the light refreshments. Generally about four gentlemen would make up each group of callers. Every means of conveyance was pressed into action and that wasn't all—the majority of the gentlemen wore Prince Albert coats and silk hats. Each stop would be of short duration. After partaking of the refreshments and extending the "Season's Greetings," they departed to the next home where guests were being received. This was in the "Gay Nineties."

We young "dudes" never got in on this social event. Perhaps it was thought our time would come. Four of us decided "Now was the accepted time," and we overthrew all precedents by "breaking the ice." Toggled in our Sunday best we crowded into E. S. Harris' covered delivery wagon, and with F. H. DeGolia's driving horse were soon "raring to go." We were rather reluctant at the first stop but had gone that far and wouldn't stop then. The iron weight was thrown out, and snapped to old Dick's bit, his big blanket was thrown over him, and we were on the front steps in a jiffy. We rang the bell and were ushered in. We were royally received everywhere. After being served with refreshments we danced and many times were forced to leave because of other callers. No one censured us in the least, and many said we were the life of the party.

But harken ye! This was the beginning of a Perfect Day. That evening the grand ball was held at the Anderson House.

Early the hacks began leaving the many couples at the hostelry, where they were escorted to the spacious parlor. Here wraps were removed and, as was the custom, each gentleman generally presented his lady friend with a dozen roses, which she formed into a corsage, leaving one that was to grace the lapel of her partner. The guests moved down the big broad stairway to the dining room, beautifully decorated for the occasion, where they congregated and moved about extending greetings to one another until the Grand March was formed. Sixty couples never looked finer, with over fifty of the gentlemen in full evening dress and the ladies in their dainty gowns, the creations of the day, many of them with trains more than a yard in length. After the Grand March a short time was consumed in filling out the programs; then the dance was on, and every dancer was swaying to and fro, to the rhythm of the old "Wang" waltz, as none but Boos Orchestra of Jackson could render it. The following round dances predominated: the Waltz, Schottische, Polka and Mazurka, while the Lancers, Waltz and ordinary Quadrilles were less commonly used. All were dances of ease and grace and what pride the people of that era took in their dancing! It was not an uncommon occurrence for a lady to ask her gentleman partner to take charge of her train. In this he was proficient, as he had taken dancing lessons and knew ball room etiquette. Oh, those "Gay Nineties!" Would that we might live them over again, but they are—Gone Forever!

BANDS

The people of this city have been musically inclined for many years, with their singing schools, church choirs, and cantatas, but there is one musical organization in which they have always felt a considerable amount of pride and that is their bands.

The first band was organized in 1858, and as far as the writer is able to ascertain, was available for engagements for more than twenty years, when it was taken over by younger men who have had some fine musical organizations down through the years to the present time.

An outsider does not realize the time required to keep a brass band together. As a rule, it depends on some one person who has enough civic pride to give of his time freely in order to hold rehearsals and perfect the players to some degree of proficiency in order to render service at functions held locally or in adjacent communities. The one person I am referring to is William F. Stirling, who held the band together and was its director until 1879, when it was reorganized and Horace S. Maynard was chosen as its leader.

The first organization played on instruments with the bell extending over the shoulder. They were of some foreign make and design and were purchased through the Stratton Company, musical instrument importers, located in New York City. As the years progressed, a change in the style of instruments to the more modern design was taking place, and in 1879 all of the instruments used in the band were of the later type. The first time I remember Mr. Stirling's connection with the band was his playing a solo alto horn. It was built like a cornet in appearance and design, only on a much larger scale.

As the band began to increase in numbers he changed to the tuba, playing a helicon model manufactured by Henry Gunkle in Paris.

It was at this time that Mr. Stirling resigned the leadership of the band and Horace S. Maynard was chosen to fill the vacancy, which he did admirably well up to the time he moved from our city. The activities of the band from this time are given chronologically.

My Experience as a Bandsman

It was in the fall of 1879. I can almost tell the day and date when my father asked me one evening, "Scott, how would you like to play cymbals in the band?"

"Why, Asa," exclaimed my mother, "You know Scott is frail and not at all well; I wouldn't stand in the child's way for one moment, but do you think he could stand it, marching and playing?"

"Well, Mary, I had never thought about it from that angle," replied my father, "but Maynard, our new band director, has watched Scott when the band is playing, observed his alert tempo, and feels he would be a valuable addition to the percussion division of the band."

All of this dialogue between my father and mother had set me agog as I peered first into one of their faces and then the other, and when I was given the chance to speak for myself, I stammered, "I would like to try."

This bandmaster was Horace S. Maynard, a native of Dimondale, a small hamlet ten miles north of here, who had been admitted to the bar two years before in Charlotte and had located here to practice his profession. He was a very apt pupil, and had obtained his musical background by attending singing school in his home town. As to his band experience, he acquired that when playing tuba in the celebrated Knights' Templar Band in Lansing under the leadership of Prof. William M. Dresskell, an accomplished musician and an excellent teacher. In competition this band had won many prizes at tournaments, not only in this state but in adjoining ones. In 1875 they accompanied the Knights' Templar Commandery of Lansing at the famous

triennial conclave in Chicago and also attended the centennial in Philadelphia.

The band occupied a prominent place in the musical fraternity of our country.

Somewhere along the line Mr. Maynard must have gained a wealth of knowledge musically, for in later years it was not uncommon for him to arrange scores for members of his own band, and at the State Band Tournament held in Saginaw in 1884 he was chosen as one of the judges along with "Cub" Berdan of Detroit, one of the foremost musicians of that period.

What prompted the selection of a cymbal player in the band was the bass drummer not being able to make the cymbals prominent enough to suit Mr. Maynard's idea of the percussion department. The drummer was not at fault as the band had inherited a large Stratton bass drum from the first band organized in 1858, which was nearly three feet tall and one and a half feet wide. In the photo of the organization the cymbals and side drum are conspicuous by their absence. Perhaps cymbals were not deemed necessary, as they followed in a way the same appliances used by the drummer in the fife and drum corps. One cymbal was attached to the drum, while the handle of the other was held tightly in the drummer's left hand with which he made the contact. The drum was beat with a drum stick held in the right hand and with the operator's eyes riveted on the music you might call him a very busy boy. Very few drummers ever perfected this operation to the entire satisfaction of their directors.

The band voted to attend the State Band Tournament to be held at Flint the following June (1880) and began their rehearsals. On account of my health I was not able to attend many of them, as my school work was usurping my strength. I had been snatched from the "jaws of death" the previous year by a serious attack of pneumonia.

I played the concert with the band given at the Red Ribbon Hall in the spring. I never shall forget the neat appearance of the band as each member completed his wardrobe with the addition of a white vest. The receipts from the concert were used as a nucleus to purchase new uniforms, the balance being furnished by popular subscription.

In those days the very trees in Michigan shook with the ague, and being susceptible to the disease, I was practically out of commission until summer. The cymbals were again attached to the drum and when the measurements were taken for the new uniforms I was not included as a member. This was a tough pill for a "kid" to swallow, but my mother took me in her arms and consoled me with her kisses, assuring me that I would soon be able to rejoin the band; whether she actually believed it I never knew.

The first appearance the band made in their new uniforms was on Decoration Day and they were thoroughly initiated. The parade had just formed to proceed to the cemetery when the heavens seemed to open up, the rain came down in torrents, and the band boys were completely drenched before they could get under cover. The storm was of short duration and they wouldn't let such a little thing as rain dampen their ardor, so the line of march was again resumed and the exercise carried out as planned.

The day arrived for the band to leave for the Tournament and the people were out en masse to escort them to the depot. The parade was formed with my father as the drum major; standing six feet and six inches in height and with the addition of a tall chapeau and plume he resembled a giant. The signal was given to play and that familiar march, "On the Ohio," began to peal forth filling the air of that beautiful June day with melodious strains. My father raised his baton, which was the signal for the parade to start. Nineteen men followed the major; in the rear rank there was one missing. The position next to the bass drummer, the one I had filled, was vacant. This nearly broke my heart and I sobbed bitterly, but I was game and marched with the crowd, my hand being in the firm grasp of my mother. At the depot many of the band boys tried to console me, and I did feel better when Mr. Maynard and my father assured me that I would soon be well and could go the next time.

From that very moment I felt inspired and began to fight. As the train pulled out I waved a fond farewell to my heroes and then we wended our way home. Four days later they returned

with laurels, having won first in the third class in playing and the first prize in competitive drill. They were met by the townspeople and given a fine ovation.

Father bought a home across the Michigan Central Railroad tracks, corner of West Elizabeth and West Streets and the people in that locality were as one large family. They did not like the idea of my being isolated when the uniforms were ordered so they concluded to take the matter into their own hands. Mrs. Birney Shaw, Mrs. Andrew Waldron and my mother were selected to see Mr. Maynard, who very obligingly proceeded to obtain the same material the other uniforms were made of. They were swallow-tail, of dark blue cloth, and trimmed in red with gold braid. Mrs. Shaw was a seamstress, so it didn't take her very long to draft a pattern and cut out the coat and trousers. It was soon noised around that my uniform was in the making and for the next few days our house was a regular Mecca, as the majority of the ladies behind the movement came with thimbles and needles all determined to have some part in the work, if it was only to sew on a button. The cap, plume and epaulets were purchased from a uniform house. The next engagement the band had, Scottie (as the band boys called me) was lit up like a "German Church," and took his accustomed place in the ranks. Sticking out my chest and with a toss of the head, I felt I was of as much importance as any one in the organization.

The Knights' Templar Band of Lansing won first prize in the first class at the Flint Tournament, and according to the By-Laws of the Michigan State Band Association the band that achieved that honor in playing entertained the Tournament in their home city the following year, so Lansing would be the host city in June, 1881.

Mr. Maynard was very much pleased with the showing his band made at the Flint Tournament and after due consideration, receiving the sanction of many members of the band, he concluded to enter them in the first class at Lansing. He realized that the competition would be much keener, and in order to have his instrumentation more complete increased the membership to twenty-four men.

In early spring rehearsals began, two and sometimes four a

week. As soon as the weather permitted, we drilled every night before rehearsal. My father being a clarinet virtuoso, Mr. Maynard placed him in the reed section. Mr. Charles E. K. Baxter of Charlotte, a graduate of West Point, and a very close friend of Mr. Maynard, was asked to be our drum major, and did he put us "through the sprouts!" The training he received in the army was passed on to us, and as a disciplinarian he made us toe the mark when it came to foot movements and alignments, and I am sure it was the method used and the untiring efforts he displayed relative to military tactics which elevated us to such a degree of efficiency that we never were defeated at drill. Oh! those rehearsals; how tiresome they became! We practiced on "Somnambula" and "Zampa" (the pieces selected to play in competition) so many times that I believe I could play them backwards and never miss a beat, but they proved very much worthwhile.

The day had arrived for the band to depart for the Tournament at Lansing, and the people followed us to the depot. Our band was sort of a favorite, and as Mr. Maynard had once played with the Lansing organization, many of its members met us at the train and escorted us to headquarters. Our entire band was entertained by individuals of their band. Father and I stayed with Morris Tyler who had lived in Eaton Rapids at one time and had played with us.

The next day the five mile march was scheduled and a drizzling rain greeted us. It cleared about nine o'clock, so the parade formed in front of the Capitol. The line of march was north on North Capitol Avenue to Franklin Street (West Grand River), East on Franklin Street to North Washington Avenue, south to South Washington and Main Street; west on West Main Street to the Fair Grounds (now Oldsmobile Plant). It rained at intervals the entire distance and the plumes on our caps (long white narrow feathers with a red feather top) resembled a chicken exposed to the same conditions. Lansing had no pavements so we plodded wearily through the mud. I was so fatigued when we reached the destination that they put me in a carry-all and ordered the driver to take me to the Armory (the Oldsmobile Service garage on South Capitol Avenue) to rest.

An attendant took me in charge, induced me to remove my clothes, then rolled me up in an army blanket and I was soon "dead to the world." I was awakened by the clicking of guns and was quite startled at first, but soon observed that several men were being instructed in rifle drill. The attendant, seeing I was awake, brought my clothes to me and was I surprised! He had dried my uniform, pressed it, and cleaned and polished my shoes. "Now you look as good as new," he said as he helped me button my shoes. I thanked him for the interest he had taken in me, and at his inquiry told him my name and where I lived.

The next day was sunny and we marched to the Fair Grounds where bands in the lower classes were competing. The plumes on our caps had dried out during the night and what a gaudy sight they presented floating in the breeze of that beautiful June morning. Each evening the soloists from the different bands were competing for prizes at the Opera House. L. A. Bently accompanied the band almost everywhere they went, and he was busy calling on different merchants and inducing them to give prizes for the best band attending the Tournament. Among the prizes was a beautiful wax doll about three feet in height and dressed in a wine colored satin dress.

The following day we were scheduled to appear in both drill and playing. There were but two bands competing in the first class, Ypsilanti and our own. The leaders drew cuts and Ypsilanti drilled first. The playing came next, each band rendering two selections. In this the bands alternated, Ypsilanti playing first. It was but a short time until the judges awarded the prizes; we won first in both drilling and playing. I wore short pants, and a Lansing newspaper made this comment, "Little Breeches got away with the boss—in fact, with all of the bosses."

All was over, and we were honored by being invited to accompany the Knights Templar Band to headquarters. They marched five men in a rank and six deep while our band marched four abreast and six deep. They opened ranks and our band took up the open space between each rank. Over fifty men en masse, and did we make the atmosphere ring as we played "Old Montrose" and "Pride of the Ball," marching down Washington Avenue. I never pounded those cymbals so hard before, but one

big thrill for me was that I marched beside the renowned "Billy" Dresskell.

We returned home that afternoon bringing all of our trophies and we were met by the whole town, I guess. The ladies had made miniature horse shoes of card board, (the size that would fit a pony), covered them with silk, and trimmed them with artificial flowers with a ribbon at either end. These were pinned, one on each band man's breast. A huge horse shoe was made for the drum major; this hung at his side suspended from his shoulders by a wide red silk ribbon. The parade was formed with two men in front of the band with brooms fastened to long poles denoting that we had made a "clean sweep." The parade ended at the Anderson House where a banquet had been prepared for us. Speeches after the banquet lauded the band to the skies, but my big moment was when my mother took me in her arms as I alighted from the train and showered me with kisses, and some of our neighbors would not be denied the same privilege. I think our next engagement was the same summer when we were employed to play several days at the Regatta held at Baubee's Lake just outside the city of Hillsdale.

Because our band won first prize in playing at Lansing, we became the host city for the Tournament the following year. We had a population of about 2000 and were blessed with four hotels and several rooming and boarding houses; but they were swamped with transients who were here for their health, taking treatment.

These Tournaments were attended as a rule by four or five hundred musicians besides scores that always accompanied their organizations. Not being equipped to handle so many persons we were obliged to relinquish the honor as hosts, which was very graciously taken over by the Jackson Grays of Jackson, and that city sponsored the Tournament in 1882. This did not eliminate us from entering the first class again, which Mr. Maynard elected to do. Here is where we encountered competition of the strongest caliber, viz: Spiegel's Opera House Band of Detroit and the Jackson Purifier Band of Jackson, directed by Louis Boos.

There were four Boos boys, Will in Saginaw, Frank in Cleveland, Edward, who was directing the orchestra of a large Opera Company but later came to Jackson where he taught until his

death, and Louie, as he was known to his friends. Each was a professional musician and teaching was their vocation; they were proficient in the technique of all instruments included in both band and orchestra. It was not long after this time that the celebrated Boos Band was organized, Ed assuming the role of director; Louie's instrument was the cornet and Ed's the clarinet, yet in the band he shared the cornet with Louie. Their band ranged from twenty-four to thirty pieces and on parade only two solo cornets were used, the boys taking over that responsibility themselves. Their style in playing and tone quality was so unique that it was hard to perceive where one left off and the other commenced; however, in concerts the first cornet man was advanced and the other men according to their work and ability. Both did a considerable amount of composing and arranging. In his prime, Louie was considered the outstanding cornet soloist in the state. Shortly after, the Boos Orchestra consisting of six pieces was organized, and they were the last word when it came to a program. No matter what you desired them to play they could "deliver the goods." I asked Ed once, "I should think Louie and you would get mixed up sometimes on what instruments you were to play for a dance." "Oh! no," he replied, "I always look after the music—if Louie starts with the "fid" under his arm I know I am to play the piano."

This yarn was told about them and I have every reason to believe it is true. It seems a large Opera Company had an engagement there and the director, who usually played the piano, called a rehearsal of the orchestra, which naturally was the Boos Orchestra. The boys had business of their own to attend to and reported late. The director was "tearing his hair" and proceeded to bawl them out. An overture preceded the performance and the director was explaining how he wanted it played. They hadn't proceeded but a few bars when he stopped them, saying, "That was very good." He next informed them that the "Prima Donna" had a cold and they would be obliged to play her solo one-half tone lower. "I want it modulated like this,"—which was done to his entire satisfaction. One or two other passages were rehearsed briefly and they were dismissed. When they had departed the

director inquired of the manager of the theatre who those fellows were. When he was informed that they were the Boos boys with their Orchestra, I'll bet he felt like a "dirty deuce in a new deck," for there was no doubt but that those boys had forgotten more than he would ever know in the musical profession.

Musically they were equal, but personally—Oh! so different! Louie was exacting over money matters, while Ed was the reverse, as he liked to see the "under dog" given a chance; yet financially he was just as successful, and both boys left a reasonably large estate.

On one occasion both of my solo cornet men were ill and I had a concert scheduled. I phoned Ed to send me a couple of cornet men on the evening train, which he did. Imagine my surprise when Louie and their first concert man reported. It was some thrill to swing a baton over the renowned Louie Boos. When we were tuning up he observed we were in high pitch although that didn't matter to him, but with a twinkle in his eye, he said, "Scott, you better make a change. This is the only band I know of that hasn't conformed to the established pitch." We did later, but we must all admit that music rendered by a band in high pitch sounds more brilliant than in any other.

Here is just one of the many kindnesses Ed did for me. It was after I had organized my concert band and we were playing a mighty good grade of music. For my weekly concert I was featuring the "Anvil Chorus" from *Il Trovatore* with the anvils and electrical effects. I don't know what prompted me, but I went to the band room the night before the concert, picked up my folder and found that score missing, and on examining the solo cornet folder obtained the same information. I was dumbfounded and recalled the old saying, "It is not an uncommon thing to find a Judas in any organization." It had happened to me; I knew why—nothing but jealousy, as I had not only attained success in directing the band but it had become a very popular musical organization. I thought I could point my finger at the guilty party but awaited developments. I wanted to play the program as advertised. On account of my work at the office I didn't have time to write the part, so I concluded to take my troubles to Ed.

He was glad to help me out and told me to forward him the first cornet and tuba scores, which I did by special delivery the next morning, they being returned to me that afternoon. That night everything on the band stand was exactly as I'd planned it. The anvils and hammers were wired, the anvil boys were at their places, and when it came time for the number each musician placed his score on his rack. I had previously told my solo cornet men of the incident, so they wouldn't be surprised at the manuscript. My eyes were focused on this one man and I saw how uneasy he was; I knew I had the guilty party "pegged." I think I directed from the second cornet score but I didn't let that bother me in the least, as they rendered the selection to my entire satisfaction. He remained with the band only a short time when he resigned, and we were all pleased, as the young man who filled in the gap could play rings around him.

At the Jackson tournament I met a young lad by the name of William Addison who played cymbals in the Purifier Band, and we formed a close friendship which lasted many years. "Billie" developed into a solo trombone player and held first chair in the Detroit Opera House and Symphony Orchestras. All of these fine chaps I have spoken of have answered the "last call."

As to the Tournament, it lasted the usual three days. The awards for playing in the first class were: Spiegel's Opera House Band of Detroit first, Jackson Purifier Band second, and our band third, although we did "cop" first prize at drill. I shall always remember that band from Detroit. They were rather corpulent in build; many of them appeared to be well along in years, wore dark gray uniforms, and they had only sixteen men, but each one was a musician, and while their instrumentation seemed to be limited in comparison with the other bands in their class, yet they certainly produced wonderful harmony. They acquired the name of "Lager Beer Dutchman", as there was an emporium on the grounds which they visited frequently, but that didn't seem to affect them in the least.

As our band was returning from the Fair Grounds to our hotel, after the prizes had been awarded and the Tournament brought to a close, we were marching in double rank formation

on the sidewalk, when we were attacked by four ruffians that marched right up through the ranks, shoving the band boys off the walk and saying, "We want to get the man with the big hat." Drum Major Baxter had donned his fatigue cap, placed his big bear skin hat and plume over the ball of his long baton, and was carrying them over his left shoulder. Baxter heard the commotion over the beat of the drums and turned around just as one of the fellows was about to hit him with a brick. Baxter caught him on the chin with his right fist and knocked him cold. The other three had the same thought in mind, but Baxter wasn't partial in the least and served them all the same dish with his trusty right and never took his baton from his shoulder. Whistles soon brought the police who took them in custody and I never heard what the outcome was.

On our return the people were still loyal and assembled at the train to meet us. They were sorry we were unable to land on top, but none felt the defeat more keenly than each individual band member. We were just outclassed—that tells the story.

There was some controversy as to whether the band would attempt to make the pilgrimage to Detroit the next year. One thing was certain, we would have to secure the services of some professional musicians, as the majority of other organizations were "loading up" with all the available men they were able to procure. The decision was finally made, and it was further agreed that the band must be strengthened by the addition of a few soloists in order for them to make a commendable showing with those bands with which it would come in contact. Mr. Maynard had scores of friends associated with other organizations; he was able to procure the services of those who played the instruments he desired and had the assurance they would join us should we decide to go the following year. Those men were notified as to the band's action so that part of the arrangements were taken care of and all through Mr. Maynard's foresightedness. The instruments added were one solo B-flat cornet, two B-flat clarinets, a trombone and a baritone. The usual preliminary schedule, rehearsals, and drill occupied the attention of the band boys for nearly three months before the time for us to leave. The day

finally arrived, and one by one we began to assemble at the band room—second floor of the new Fire Department building. Over by the window sat a young man busily engaged in writing a march. With nothing but the theme in his mind, his quill pen sped quietly and rapidly over the blank pages, jotting down notes and rests, making each measure of equal length, and finally the score for that particular instrument was completed. He was not very long writing the entire arrangement for the band and gave it the name of "Military March." He never confided in anyone as to whether it was a number he had heard and retained the theme or one of his own compositions. At any rate, it was a fine march. The young man was George A. M. Storer, a solo B-flat clarinet virtuoso and a graduate of the English School of Music. We rehearsed the piece once before leaving the band room and it was perfect in every way.

As the band had never had their picture taken we were lined up before the A. P. Ball Studio, after which we marched to the depot accompanied by our admirers.

In order that the reader may become familiar with some of the persons of whom I have written and who appear in the picture, I take this opportunity to inform them.

In front is Drum Major Charles E. K. Baxter; at his right with dark (red) plume and a valve trombone in his hands, Director Horace S. Maynard; in the second rank, second man from the right in front of bass drum, Willard G. Bryant, our solo B-flat cornet player. (He competed in the cornet contests in both Jackson and Detroit and was awarded second in the former and first in the latter); same rank, second from left, Edwin P. Knight, Eb-flat cornet, first white child born in Eaton Rapids; in the rear rank, second man from the left, my father, Asa B. Munn; second man at the left of him is George Storer, and I am the "kid" standing next to the bass drum with the plume in my face.

We arrived at the old Michigan Central depot, opposite the Wayne Hotel, early in the afternoon. We were placed in formation and paraded up Jefferson Avenue to the strains of our new march; we filled that old Avenue with melodious tones, and attracted a lot of attention. Our headquarters were at the Michigan Exchange Hotel located just west of the intersection of Jefferson

and Woodward Avenues. I could hardly make it seem possible that I, a kid from the country, was in the big city of Detroit; I was all eyes and I hardly think anything escaped my gaze. At the hotel the one thing that interested me most was the elevator—very crude, compared to now—but a novelty. I made friends with the boy that operated it and he gave me several rides. "Wouldn't I tell the kids about this when I returned home!"

The long dreaded march and the competition of bands in the lower classes occupied the time for two days and then came the finale. The first event on that day was the contests in competitive drill. Several bands had entered, but on being informed our band would participate, they withdrew. Of course, we had the prize won and were not obliged to appear on the field. All of the programs of the Tournament had been held at Recreation Park (now Grand Circus Park, I believe). There was a mammoth crowd but we were given unlimited space to give the exhibition drill, which Director Maynard very graciously consented to have the band execute for them. It was our finest, but with saddened eyes I must say it was our last drill.

Round after round of deafening applause greeted our ears as the Drum Major waved his baton to which we responded with the most intricate movements, carefully planned and perfectly executed. Our drill march was "On the Ohio," and so well were the different formations fitted into the piece that, while there was nothing quite as exacting as that, it seemed that for every movement some particular strain in the march was adapted to it. As we completed the drill and were leaving the field the applause was so tremendous we could hardly hear the piece we were playing. Drum Major Baxter and Director Maynard received many compliments from the officers of the Tournament and thanked them for the courtesy. Officers of the Canadian Army witnessed the drill and on meeting Mr. Baxter, asked him how they were able to keep their lines so straight, as a band had nothing but their eyes to guide them while the soldiers march elbow to elbow. Mr. Baxter's reply was, "Keen eyes, strict discipline, but the one big factor is—they love to do it."

That year Phineas Gilmore, who had one of the foremost con-

cert bands in the nation, held his Golden Jubilee in Boston; that would attract musical organizations from all parts of the United States. A delegation from there, in the interest of the Jubilee, attended the tournament at Detroit and were so enchanted with our drill that the band was offered \$1000 and all expenses for one exhibition drill. For over three months the boys had worked to perfect themselves for the Tournament, so they were of the opinion their several businesses needed their attention, so declined the offer but with regret.

In the afternoon the contest in the first class was held. There were three entrants: Rice's Saginaw Band from Saginaw, the little German Band from Battle Creek, and our own. Rice's Band (the majority of whom were professionals) won first and we other two tied for second place. On the play-off that night at the Opera House, the little German Band won, but only by a very small margin.

We returned home and, regardless of our defeat, the populace, never forgetting what a valuable asset the band was to the community, met us with cheers, and as we alighted from the train, greeted us with a hearty welcome.

It was generally discussed at the Tournament that the Michigan State Band Association had just about reached the end of its existence, although a Tournament was to be held at Saginaw the following year. The intent of the Association was to stimulate the organizing of bands, and employ able teachers in order to perfect them in playing by competing for prizes. It was primarily formed for the amateur classes, but the larger cities with their professional musicians had "horned in" and had killed it, and true to the belief of the officers of the Association, it was a thing of the past and never met again.

Our band was appointed the official band of the First Regiment, Michigan State Militia, and in August accompanied the outfit to their annual encampment held one week each year at Round Lake near Brighton. Here I met a lad my age by the name of Frank Ives, son of Col. L. H. Ives, who was a Civil War Veteran and an officer in the Mason Company. Frank was a guest of his father and accompanied the Mason contingent. The

band was divided so that two members ate with each company. It was arranged for me to eat with the Mason company; so Frank and I messed together for a whole week and a very warm friendship sprouted which has lasted for years. That was my first experience of army life but I had drilled so much with the band that I enjoyed every minute in camp. We were up every morning for reveille and on dress parade each afternoon. I think the one thing that interested me most was the inspection of the contingent by Governor Joseph W. Begole. The regiment was drawn up in a Company front and presented arms as the Governor, seated in a hack with the top lowered, drawn by two coal black horses with two attendants in livery driving the span, approached the foot of the line. As he passed our band we played "Hail to the Chief," after which the cornets sounded off. We trooped the line and counter-marched, the troops swinging into marching formation, and they proceeded to their company quarters and the band to ours, which was located alongside that of the commanding officer of the regiment.

The band still functioned and comprised about twenty men, all of us being more or less amateurs. Most of our playing was local, for the Blue Ribbon race meeting of which our Racing Association was a member, for the local Fair held each fall, and for an occasional outside engagement. I remember an incident quite vividly that happened to me when I was fourteen years of age. Our bass drummer was a printer and had secured a position in another city so we were without a drummer. I fastened the cymbal to the bass drum and played both drum and cymbals at several rehearsals. The Eaton County Battalion (a G. A. R. organization with posts in every city and village in the county) held their annual encampment on the bank of Grand River near Dimondale in August, 1885. They procured tents from the State and the meeting generally lasted about a week, the whole Battalion living there the entire period; they were very often accompanied by some members of their families. We had been engaged to play for two days, and Mr. Maynard asked me if I thought I could play both drum and cymbals and I informed him I could if someone would take the front of the drum. I was slight in stature and after I strapped the drum on and tipped

back a little I was just able to clear it from the floor, so a boy was secured to assist me. Everything went along fine until we were trooping the line one afternoon of the encampment. I supposed the kid had hold of the drum; the ground was quite rough and I was experiencing difficulty in picking out a smooth path, when I stubbed my toe on a bog and pitched headlong over the drum. Mr. Maynard, failing to hear the drum, turned to see what was the matter, when he discovered me trying to extricate myself from the drum and crawl out of the harness. He, as well as the whole band, had a hearty laugh over this, but declared I was lucky not to be seriously injured.

Nothing out of the ordinary happened in the band the next few years; everything was about normal. As for myself I started playing alto, then tenor, B-flat bass and tuba, although my time was taken up the majority of the time with the percussion department. Mr. Maynard made this remark to me once, which I consider mighty complimentary, viz: "Scott, you are the finest bass drummer I have ever had."

In 1888 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney and consequently was obligated to move to Charlotte where he continued to live. He had played baritone in the band, and as a gentleman moved into the city whose instrument was the tuba, I took up the baritone which I played until I organized my concert band.

When Mr. Maynard left our city that was practically the end of the once popular organization, and on account of removals and the call of the grim reaper the band almost passed out of existence. There was no one to look after the few instruments and music owned by the band, so I took it upon myself to take charge of this and I can truthfully say that the existence of a band in our city from then to the present time has fallen to my lot. I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have in my humble way down through the years contributed to the enjoyment of the citizens and the adjoining country folk.

There was one day of the year I was always determined to have a band out if possible, and that was Decoration Day. We played then if we didn't make another appearance the entire year. I have furnished all kinds of bands on that day, but this one is the cap chief of them all: seven men, viz; tuba, trombone,

alto, baritone, B-flat clarinet and the two drums. The clarinet man and I played the solo cornet parts. Our hearts were there if our numbers were few and our music very ordinary. We had done our bit and the old G. A. R. boys appreciated it.

No regular organization existed for a few years until about 1898 when a young man moved into the city who was an exceptional E-flat cornet player. Many new faces had appeared in our midst from time to time that were more or less musically inclined, and almost before we were aware of it the nucleus of a new brand was forming. We made considerable progress and the following year purchased new military uniforms. For the next few years we did a considerable amount of playing Saturday night concerts and filled many engagements in adjoining cities.

It is not generally known, but the Hon. Murl H. "Doc" DeFoe of Charlotte was one of the outstanding baton twirlers of his day. It was about the beginning of the century that our band had an engagement to play at a celebration in Lansing, and knowing there would be several bands in the parade, I was determined to make a good showing. I engaged "Doc" to go with us; attired in white with a red "fez," he was the center of attraction as he threw his baton as high as many of the buildings to the tempo of our parade March, Sousa's "Washington Post."

From a paper boy, "Doc" has risen to eminence, and all on his own initiative. At present he is co-partner and editor of the Charlotte Republican Tribune, and has represented this district in the State Senate. "Doc"—here's to your continued success.

This organization, too, folded up and all signs of a band lay practically dormant until 1913 when I made a survey of the local musicians and those in the surrounding country and discovered that there were about twenty-four men with more than average musical background.

This was the birth of my concert band. A rehearsal was called and the response was very gratifying, at which time an organization was discussed; later, by-laws and regulations were drawn, officers elected, and I was chosen Director and General Manager. I don't know as I ever saw so much enthusiasm exemplified. No addition had been made to the library in many years, so I was instructed to make a selection of the more modern scores, which

stimulated the interest, much to the delight of the entire personnel. Our number had now increased to thirty men and we were filling many engagements. Not being uniformed, it was voted that money received for playing be placed in the treasury to procure that most-needed equipment; this was purchased the next spring in the khaki material and design, so we felt like a full-fledged organization.

In 1915 a representative of the Lincoln Chataqua presented a very flattering contract to the writer for the services of the band on their five-day circuit for a period of three months, but this was declined.

That fall a spark was dropped, the wind fanned it, and the flame spread rapidly and World War I was a reality. As the months rolled by unrest seemed to prevail in this country, and in 1917 we were dragged into the rotten mess. Five of my boys signed on the dotted line, most of them joining the 119th Field Artillery at Lansing, and anytime the local boys left for their contingent the band and many of the populace accompanied them to the depot. We played for all bonds, War Savings, Red Cross and all other activities of a war nature, for which it was voted our services would be gratis. We did, however, receive compensation for our weekly band concerts in the park.

We celebrated Armistice Day two-fold November 9th and 11th. The first day those owning autos assisted in bringing the band boys in, so we were playing within an hour after the receipt of the good news. The fire works had started and I must admit there was a considerable amount of "uncorking" done; all of the afternoon the city was a perfect bedlam. Frivolity was running at a white heat, the sky was the limit, and about the only thing left undone was that they overlooked rolling up the sidewalks. On the 11th the celebration was a little better organized. A parade was formed and with a slow tread marched to the solemn strains of the dirge, "Peace," by the band. Mayor Gifford followed the band with an open book in his hands. (It might have been a Sears, Roebuck and Company catalogue for all that I know). Next came the casket that was supposed to enclose the remains of the "Kaiser" and was borne by six sad-(?) eyed gentlemen.

The floral tribute on the casket was one lone "bull thistle." Then came citizens who were also in the line of march, the majority of whom were not subdued to any degree of sobriety. It was planned to hold a ceremony on the principal square where the bon-fire had taken place on the 9th. Two orange crates had been placed there, upon which the casket would be set after the return of the parade. During the parade some "wag" saturated the boxes with kerosene. The casket had been placed and as the armed guard were about to fire their salute, a match was thrown into the debris and up in smoke went one perfectly good \$75 casket. That night the band was hired to go to Charlotte and help them to celebrate, hundreds of our citizens accompanying us. The band assembled at the Charlotte Masonic Temple and I observed the city was "quiet as death." You could have shot a cannon ball up Main Street and never hit an object. I conceived the idea of scattering the band; up the back alleys they went waiting for the signal to play. My bass drummer was not available so I played that instrument myself. Joe Hall (snare drummer) and I started up the street keeping time, and as we reached the square (Williams House) rolled off, and the band began to assemble from all quarters blasting that familiar old tune "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight." People seemed to come from everywhere; they were so startled they must have thought the millennium had come. It was but a short time until Main Street was packed and the band had some difficulty wending their way through it, but they managed to keep together sufficiently well that they were able to play some familiar "ditty." There was one dame (I suppose I should say lady) pretty well "ginned up" who kept constantly at my side, banging a couple of kettle covers for cymbals, and kept exclaiming "I must keep close to my little drummer boy;" she thought we should dance, so the band formed a circle, struck up "Turkey in the straw" and she and I showed them how to "Cut the Pigeon Wing."

One contingent nearly broke up the moving picture house by parading down one aisle, across the front, and out the other singing at the top of their voices: "Hail; Hail; the Gang's All Here."

The remark was made "Oh, those rough necks from Eaton Rapids." Had a check-up been made they would have discovered the first families of our city were included. They were just calling on their neighbors in the county seat, bringing them good cheer, and attempting to pry them from their so-called sobriety and trying to show them how to have a good time.

The following spring three events worthy of note occurred. The Liberty Loan drive was on; Judge Clyde I. Webster of Detroit (a local boy) was the speaker, the meeting being held at the First Methodist Church. Lansing was celebrating with a mammoth parade and sought the services of our band, the fee to be \$8 per man and expenses, I drawing double pay. Our city needed the band also, so I left it up to the boys to decide—play at home gratis or go to Lansing. They voted to a man to play at home. About two weeks later Richard Millard, pastor of the First Methodist Church, and Mr. E. E. Horner asked me to give a concert at the church, which the boys were very glad to do. During the intermission of the concert \$1500 was raised in a very few minutes and given to the band to compensate them, in a small way, as they termed it, for the services they had rendered. I tried to respond but I was so completely taken by surprise that words failed me, but I did manage to get the band to their feet in order to give the donors a rising vote of thanks. Thirty-one dress uniforms were ordered that cost nearly \$1000, the balance being used for summer concerts and the purchase of new music. When the order was placed for the uniforms, one of the highest tributes I ever received was bestowed upon me. Because my loyalty to the band in every way had placed them on such a high plane, and because they had been very popular and were filling all of the engagements it was possible for them to do, they voted that it should be known in the future as "Munn's Band," and that the word Munn should adorn each side of the collar. I was speechless and cried, but they hovered around me saying, "Scott, you have earned it."

For about ten years I turned down more engagements than we filled, as the band was composed of men in all walks of life; and while they loved it, yet it was primarily a "hobby" or pastime and could not be depended upon as a permanent livelihood.

In May, the 119th Field Artillery returned, and a "gala day" had been planned in Lansing and because so many of our home boys were connected with this outfit, our band was sent over to participate in the celebration activities. I was given my place in the parade which formed on Capitol Avenue, moved south to West Main, east to Washington Avenue and north through the business district.

As we turned on Washington Avenue a Sergeant saluted me saying, "Colonel McCormick wants your band to head the second division of his command." I pulled the band out of the parade and the boys nearly besieged me with questions, to which I replied "Wait and see." I saluted the Colonel as he approached us and he returned it with a smile. The second division halted and I took the place that had been assigned to me. Talk about a band playing! I thought they would split the bells on their horns, and the slides in the front rank reminded one of bucking broncos as their knees barely escaped their chins. It was our time to strut, and we "did our stuff." Of course, the Eaton Rapids folks, who were there en masse, were made very jubilant by the band's being given such a place of honor.

That fall at the Eaton County Fair, Madam Minnie Peek and her dancing horse were "headliners." She explained to me that she wanted a waltz and cake walk, that her horse was very temperamental and did not perform well unless pieces were played at their proper tempo. "Here are two pieces I am sure you and your horse will enjoy," said I, trying to keep from laughing. They are "Dream of Heaven" waltzes and "Alexander's Ragtime Band." She nodded with assent when I remarked, "Don't worry, girlie, I won't crab your act." The act was perfect, and as she left the track she gave me a smile as her whip was waved in the air. She told Secretary Brown her horse had never kept time with the music so perfectly. Brown could hardly wait to tell me, when I roared out with a hearty laugh, "Jim, that horse wasn't keeping time with the music; I beat time with the horse's feet," at which he enjoyed a good laugh.

For services rendered during the War, several individual persons were given tokens and I happened to be so honored by the committee. It was made from a captured German cannon

and on it this was inscribed: "Awarded by the Treasury Department for Patriotic Services on behalf of Liberty Loans."

As a rule our city was always very progressive and had some special day or days of entertainment every summer. On account of the war we had lain dormant, but interest for some kind of entertainment had kindled anew, so a Fourth of July celebration was planned. We never did do anything by halves, and this was no exception. The city was dressed in its prettiest and everywhere bunting, streamers, and flags were flying in the breezes. A full program was planned with an industrial parade headed by the band in their new uniforms, and they presented a beautiful sight and played exceedingly well. All kinds of sports, fire works, and a pavement dance ended the festivities.

During World War I, I procured every popular piece published, which I used to a good advantage. I also obtained books from Carl Fischer of New York City that contained only the National Anthems of every nation that possessed one. At an engagement of the Eaton County Fair in Charlotte, I felt proud one afternoon to be able to render this service to one of the free acts. It was a troupe of "Jap" tumblers, and I must admit they were excellent. As they came running onto the platform the band sounded a chord and played their National Anthem. The entire troupe faced me and stood at attention until finished, when they all smiled, gave me a salute and to the accompaniment of the band went into their act. When they had finished I made an announcement over the loudspeaker thus: "How would you like to be 5,000 miles from home and hear the Star Spangled Banner? It was the Japanese National Anthem we played preceding the act."

In 1933 I suffered a loss that would make the most ardent music lover's heart turn against fate. I lost everything in a fire, musical instruments, a complete set of khaki and twenty dress uniforms, and my library, which was considered one of the oldest in the state. It consisted of many English, German and Italian arrangements of operas, overtures and folk songs long out of print. A brass band was my "hobby" and I would not quit. I sent a clipping of the fire to many firms I had dealt with, and

many responded beautifully, especially Barnhouse, York and Fischer, so it was not long before we were equipped to fill our summer engagements. For the past two years I have had an excellent organization with practically a complete instrumentation, and will continue to give concerts in the park this summer.

I hope I have not tired the reader as I have only touched a few "hot spots" of my many experiences.

Being an active band man for 72 years I feel that I am entitled to be classed as "One of the Deans of Band Directors in the State."

In 1914 Brig. Gen. Samuel Keyes appointed the band as the First Regimental Band Uniform Rank Knights Pythias of Michigan.

In 1926 the Official Board of the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home voted that Munn's Band be made their official band.

In 1883 and 1884 there were two bands organized here both of very short duration, a boys' and a ladies' band.

There appears in the Eaton Rapids Journal in the items of October, 1884, the following: "A ladies' band was organized last week with seventeen members. Louise Grinell is president, Bell Waldo, secretary and Elsie Williams, treasurer."

Horace S. Maynard directed the latter during their brief existence. His wife, Mrs. Lizzie Waldo-Maynard, played the baritone horn.

In Appreciation

For a period of twenty-five years (1890-1915) the nucleus of the band was composed of the following persons, viz: D. Heber Hamlin, M. P. Bromeling, Bert Lyon, Peter Baumer, Samuel Wilbur and the writer. All that had to be done was to make the call and those old stalwarts would rally to the occasion and, with the assistance of the newcomers and a few rehearsals, be in readiness to play for some local function and Saturday night concerts on Main Street.

Little does the reader realize the amount of time spent by a member of a brass band and how small the remuneration for this service is. Love of the association with people of similar talent and

the chance to relax and be a part in producing harmony that tends to soothe the tired mind and the saddened heart—these are the chief rewards. Music has its charms.

With your indulgence I wish to name a few band members and list their years of service: seventy-two years, W. Scott Munn; fifty years, J. Ben Hicks; forty years, M. P. Bromeling, Bert Lyon, W. Scott Hamlin; thirty-five years, William F. Geyer, George Bohm; thirty years, D. Heber Hamlin, Laverne Hamman, Roy W. Williamson, Harry Scott, Clark L. Belnap, Roy Rusch, R. P. Baumer; twenty-five years, Otis F. Finch, Howard Chappell, Lynn Woodruff, Ernest Martin, William Robinson, Leo O'Mara, Samuel Wilbur, Jay Seelye, Arthur Rochefort; twenty years, T. H. Lyon, Wayne R. Meade, Amos Boody, Guy Stoner, Dean Avery, C. A. Shoemaker, Robert Noble, H. S. DeGolia, L. M. Lyon, Joe Hall; ten years, Dorr Baumer, Lynn Baumer, Harold Taylor, Virgil Welsh, Carl Hamman, Lyle Hamman, Harry Sipe, Bert Rogers.

The above and many others have been instrumental in placing the band on such a high plane as to make it one of the best-known musical organizations in central Michigan.

In 1919 Dr. C. H. Moyer, a veteran of World War I, located here. He was a cornet soloist and a valuable asset to the band. I understand he was largely responsible for the band being named for me.

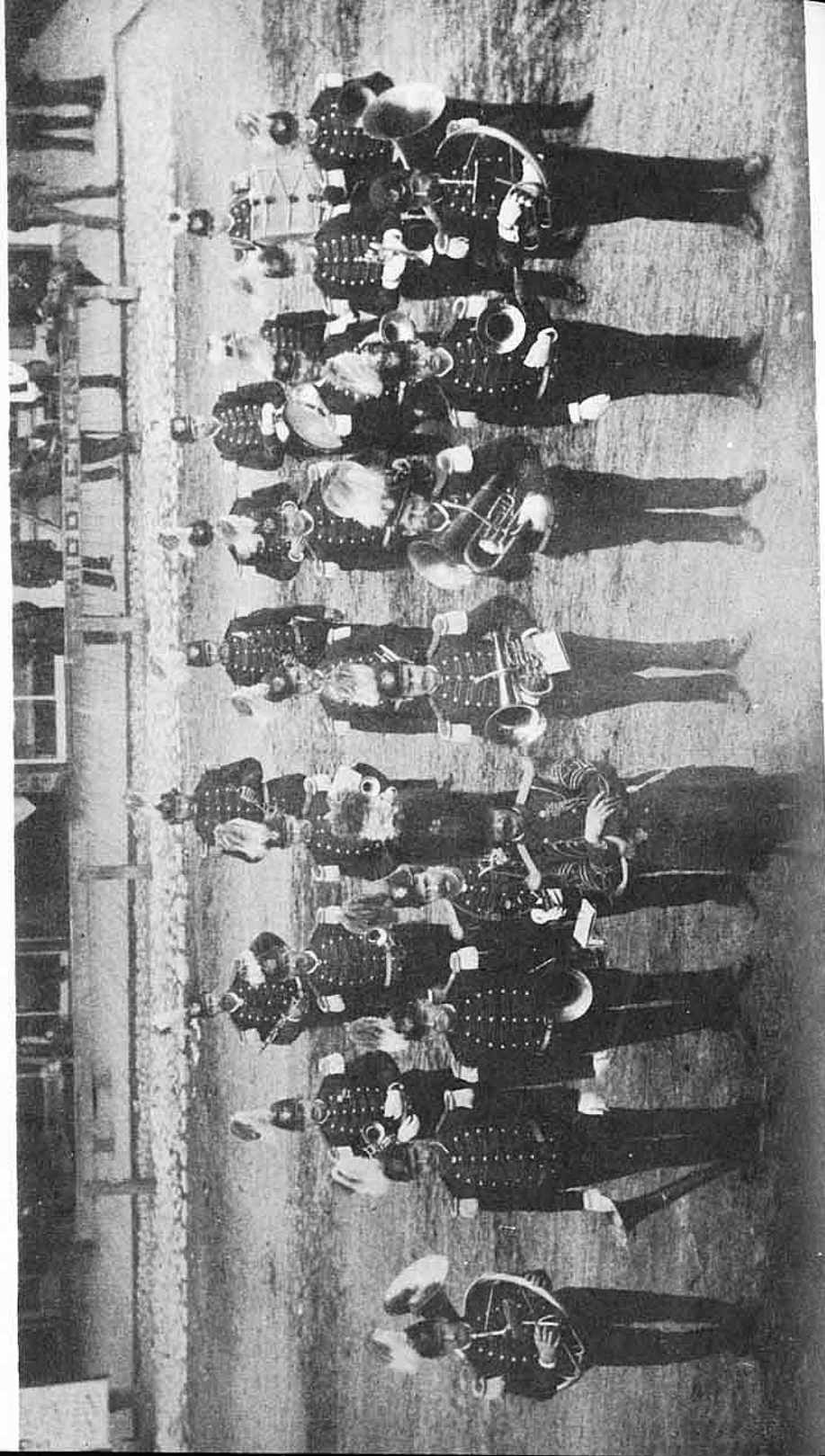
At one time Peter Baumer and his two sons, Dorr and Lynn, were members; and at another time Heber Hamlin and son Scott, and Jay Seelye and his son George were in the reed section.

In 1904 Floyd Hoyt of Albion filled an engagement with us and his services have been available most of the time since, a period of forty-seven years of loyalty; I could name scores of similar instances. I also commend Leo O'Mara who composed the march "Munn's Band."

During the typhoid epidemic in 1926 when John L. McLaury was taken, the school board engaged me to teach the band for the balance of the school year and I can cheerfully say that the experience was most gratifying. In those days the spring convention (now held in Olivet) was held at Michigan State College and the band attended. While we didn't win any trophies, we

received honorable mention as to our attack, tempo and expression, and also we were in perfect tune. That was something to be proud of.

That same fall Mrs. Munn and I were guests of Carl R. Sprinkle at a football game on old Ferry Field at Ann Arbor. No one knows the thrill that was mine to see one of my boys, Carl, with his trombone marching in the front rank of the celebrated University of Michigan band playing that nationally famous march, "The Victors."



THE EATON RAPIDS BAND
 Horace S. Maynard, Director
 Taken in June, 1883



MUNN'S CONCERT BAND
 Taken in 1916

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

It will never be known exactly what influence fraternal societies have had in molding the character of the human race. Like the church, they have some outstanding features that bind the members more closely in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love. While the writer's knowledge is rather limited as to the ritualistic features of the different societies, yet he never heard of one that did not exhibit the open Holy Bible on its altar during all of its ceremonies. As a rule, the most influential members of a secret society are men of a fine Christian experience who are a bulwark to the organization and always are eager, ready and willing to assist their less informed brethren. The writer once belonged to a men's Sunday School class with a hundred or more members; the minister of that church was an exceptional leader, a very fluent speaker and closely held the attention of his class; it was not an uncommon thing for different groups to congregate after the adjournment and discuss the lesson taught that day and how it carried out the ritual of some particular secret society.

The fraternal society occupies a prominent place in our social structure, not only locally, but it is very definitely extended to practically every corner of the globe. In many ways it has lifted man from degradation of that lower plane in life to a loftier elevation and by constant study and sincere application he has become a leader in expounding the Christian religion.

After the church and school have been firmly established in a community it is not long before fraternal societies are organized and generally flourish, as men want some place in which to relax and divert their minds from the daily grind of business and to meet all eligibles on a common level and become better acquainted with their neighbors.

Fraternal societies were not intended to, and never will supersede the church, but they do, in a way, work hand in hand toward the betterment of society and by their teaching promulgate the

Holy Scriptures. In most instances those selected to the different offices are so proficient in performing the ritual and portraying the role for which they have been selected that the candidate feels he is witnessing some stellar play in the theatre instead of receiving a degree.

The ladies have their auxiliary organizations also to which men are usually eligible; the portraying of the ritual by the several officers is always exemplified in a flawless manner and the floor work is of a stellar quality.

MASONIC

Eaton Rapids Lodge No. 63, F. & A. M.

Eaton Rapids Lodge No. 63, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized under dispensation in January 1853 and chartered January 13, 1854. Its charter members were Amos Hamlin, Worshipful Master; Ezra D. Burr, Senior Warden; Leonard W. McKinney, Junior Warden; and James I. Rogers. Two visiting members were present, C. C. Darling and Benjamin E. Roch. It was voted to hold the regular meetings on Monday evening on or before the full of the moon in each month. In 1920 it was changed, the regular meeting to be held on the first Monday evening of each month.

During the Morgan episode in the Masonic Lodge in Batavia, New York State, the jewels fell into the hands of Morris Miller's father, Wheeler Miller, and at his death, they became the property of the younger Miller, who had become a member of the Eaton Rapids Lodge. The jewels consisted of the insignia worn by the officers, viz: the square and compass, the Senior Deacon's staff and those applicable to the several stations. Mr. Miller loaned these jewels to the lodge and they were in its possession for many years. In 1910, he attended a meeting and presented the jewels to the lodge, stating that he was getting along in years and wanted his lodge to be the owner of them, and it was but a short time until he answered the last call.

The Holy Bible that belonged to the Batavia lodge was given to Mr. Miller's sister, Mrs. Nancy Jopp, but its whereabouts at this time is not known.

Eaton Rapids Chapter No. 24, R. A. M.

Eaton Rapids Chapter No. 24 Royal Arch Masons was chartered January 9, 1860, with the following officers; Ezra D. Burr, High Priest; Thomas S. S. Havens, King; and Amos Hamlin, Scribe. After organization the chapter chose Ezra D. Burr, High Priest; L. B. Willis, King; Amos Spicer, Scribe; G. Hutchings, Captain of the Host; M. Carpenter, Principal Sojourner; J. R. Stevenson, Royal Arch Captain; J. I. Rogers, Secretary; and A. Moore, Treasurer. It was voted to hold the regular meetings on the first Wednesday evening in each month.

For many years, this Chapter had the reputation of doing excellent work in all four degrees and was called upon to exemplify the different degrees in many of the nearby villages.

In 1862, on account of its inactivity, Capitol Chapter No. 9 located at Lansing was asked to surrender its Charter by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan, and during the interim and until the restoration of its Charter, members of that Chapter were obliged to attend Eaton Rapids Chapter. Those in the Lansing jurisdiction wishing to receive the Capitular degrees obtained their work here. Their Charter was restored in December, 1862.

Eaton Rapids Council No. 83, R. & S. M.

Eaton Rapids Council No. 83 Royal and Select Masters was constituted in the following manner: petition was filed May 6, 1916; dispensation was granted May 10, 1916, and the charter was granted May 18, 1916. The Council was constituted by Most Illustrious Grand Master, Clarence A. Howard. The first officers were W. Scott Munn, Thrice Illustrious Master; Raymond Norton, Deputy Master; John J. Milbourn, Principal Conductor of the Work, and Guy E. Rogers, Recorder.

The Charter was surrendered December 9, 1937.

Eaton Rapids Chapter 241, O. E. S.

Eaton Rapids Chapter No. 241, Order of the Eastern Star, petitioned the Grand Chapter O. E. S. of Michigan for a chapter to be instituted in this city in the spring of 1899, the following persons being charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Floyd R. LaFever, Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Minnie, Dr. and Mrs. James B. Bradley,

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hendee, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. DeGolia, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen T. Dwinnell, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Stirling, Mr. and Mrs. Julius J. Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Gallery, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Walters, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Spicer, Mrs. Ursula Hartson, Mrs. Hattie Derby, Miss Addie Hartson, Miss Mary Derby, and E. B. Spears.

The first officers were Mrs. Ursula Hartson, Worthy Matron; Floyd R. LaFever, Worthy Patron; and Mrs. Mary DeGolia, Associate Matron. The charter was granted October 11, 1899. The only two living charter members are Mrs. Addie (Hartson) Birney and Miss Mary Derby.

TRUE FRATERNALISM

When the Masonic Lodge lost all of its furniture, paraphernalia and equipment in the fire of 1924, it was practically destitute—no home.

Negotiations were made to purchase the "Red Ribbon Hall" and remodel it. The Masonic Temple Association was formed, Articles of Corporation filed with the Secretary of State, and a committee appointed to sell the stock, which was all practically subscribed for.

Thomas Blair True was a member of the Temple Board (seven in number). He was a clever master mechanic who could do a very commendable job at anything he undertook. To him was assigned the supervision of the remodeling on which he did "good work"—"square work"—such work as you don't often see. When you enter the Temple and walk through the auditorium, the dining room, and the kitchen on the first floor, and the parlors, ante-rooms, and beautiful lodge room on the second floor, you can see the touch of the master hand; in fact, in any direction you may cast your eyes, your mind has but one thought "Tom True's handiwork." He would accept but very little compensation for his large contribution, stating that next to his home came his lodge, and he felt honored to be able to assist in rebuilding a home for the fraternity that he so dearly loved. In the fall, upon its completion, there was an elaborate function when it was dedicated by the Grand Lodge.

During the lean years (the depression) all fraternal societies

suffered by the loss of membership. Three Past Masters stepped into the picture, viz: Ivan D. Laird, secretary of both the Blue Lodge and the Chapter, did the janitor work for several years gratis; Edgar L. Buechler gave lavishly of his time to procure entertainments, the proceeds to apply on the debt; and George W. Phillips did excellent work by accepting stock from brothers who were in arrears for dues and they were thereby reinstated in membership. Mr. E. E. Horner made this proposition: "I will make the final payment on the debt up to and including \$300." Mr. Phillips was inspired by this proposal and began soliciting members of the lodge for funds. To three Past Masters, Homer O. Eckard, Heileman O. Miller and W. Scott Munn, his co-workers in the postoffice, he extended the honor of paying the \$30 that cancelled the debt up to the stipulated amount. The mortgage was burned in May, 1941, at which time a banquet was spread, with many dignitaries of the craft attending.

The Masonic fraternity is proud of their temple.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Friendship Lodge No. 69 was instituted June 9, 1886, and the charter was granted March 13, 1889.

The first officers were as follows: L. A. Bentley, Chancellor Commander; B. F. Goodrich, Vice Chancellor; J. W. Munger, Prelate; A. D. Gallery, Master of Exchequer; J. J. Adams, Master of Finance; J. G. Flynn, Keeper of Records and Seals; J. M. Gallery, Master at Arms; W. F. Furey, Inner Guard; J. V. Stowell, Outer Guard.

Here was a lodge that understood the full meaning of the word "Fraternalism" and lived up to its name "Friendship Lodge." The members never hesitated on digging down in their pockets to help the poor and needy and did not confine their activities to their own membership.

The Charter was surrendered to the Grand Lodge on December 31, 1939.

PYTHIAN SISTERS

Island City Temple No. 48 was instituted September 25, 1900, by Celia A. Shuler of Charlotte. The officers were: Mae E. Booth, Past Chief; Thera Strank, Most Excellent Chief; Flora Gallery,

Excellent Senior; Ella Beasore, Excellent Junior; Jennie Hall, Manager; Josephine H. Crocker, Mistress of Records and Correspondence; Jessie Hall, Mistress of Finance; Therese Ramsay, Protector; and Edith Britten, Guard.

Eighteen Sisters and twelve Knights were Charter members. They have a very active Past Chiefs' Club that does a considerable amount of altruistic work.

The Charter was surrendered in 1933.

UNIFORM RANK — KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

It is not often that an organization can gain a reputation of superiority in drill and military tactics but such is the honor and the title acquired by Island City Co. No. 17 Uniform Rank Knights of Pythias and all during a brief period of three years. Application for the Company was made on July 22, 1909 and was mustered in on August 18 with 54 men.

THE OFFICERS

Captain—Ira L. McArthur

1st Lieut.—Clark L. Balnap

2nd Lieut.—Morris H. Beman

Recorder—Glen W. Hughes

Treasurer—George W. Lindsey

THE MEMBERSHIP

Glen W. Hughes

Otis F. Finch

Fred C. Hunt

Morris H. Beman

Adelbert E. Ranney

Clark L. Belnap

Henry A. Goodrich

Benj. C. Finch

Fred W. Mendell

Wallace W. Knapp

Bert Lytell

Henry C. Minnie

Clare W. Greene

Clyde Mellon

Thomas B. True

Leo J. Holmes

Elton B. Spears

Peter Beasore

Homer S. Bentley

Fred J. Culver

Floyd Peterson

Frank E. Ford

Clyde A. Sprinkle

Chas. T. Eldred

Carlton Palmer

Harry A. Webster

Chas. S. Horner

Claris H. Hall

George W. Lindsey

Fred H. M. Long

William V. Clegg

Edwin J. French

Hugh B. Walker

Fern B. Webber

John H. Ramsay
Harry H. Knapp
William W. Lewis
Harry Jenne
Clifford M. Beman
Hugh M. Hall
Arthur P. Green
Lucius F. Hosler
Alanson Osborn
Eugene H. VanDeusen

Andrew J. Hicks
Wm. L. Hurd
Raymond Norton
Elbert F. Mix
Herbert L. Boice
Newton D. Carlton
Peter Baumer
Wm. H. Baldwin
Chas. A. Collier
W. Scott Munn

The company attended the state meeting at Lansing in 1909 and the national conclave held the following year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but did not compete at either place. In 1911 they made their first bid for honors at drill but were eliminated by companies from Battle Creek and Albion. In the spring of 1912 William E. Loomis, Brigadier General of the Michigan Brigade appointed Captain Ira L. McArthur to the position of Assistant Inspector General on his staff. The company elected Clark L. Belnap to fill the vacancy and under his leadership made rapid strides toward their ultimate goal. That fall they attended the state meeting in Kalamazoo and wrest the state championship from Albion. The two companies clashed again the following year at Saginaw with the same result. This inspired the members of the company to make an effort to gain national honors and all necessary arrangements were made to attend the National Encampment at Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1914. They were never defeated at drill in the state and although they are disbanded they still retain the honor they so richly deserve and won.

No organization ever worked harder than the Island City boys when they went in training for a meet. For over three months their feet hit the pavement at 5 o'clock in the morning five days a week for an hour, for extensive maneuvers laid down in the schedule of competition.

State Militia officers that had seen the company work out said that we were as near perfection as any military organization they had ever seen in action. We left here Saturday evening, arrived at Terre Haute, our destination, Sunday afternoon, and were

assigned to our quarters which was the first row of tents in the camp—a signal honor.

We arose early each morning, until the day of competition, and went through our regular routine and thereby kept alert and did not become stale. On one occasion a German Army Officer watched us as we went through our paces. He made a remark to Captain Belnap that one movement we were executing was not correct and explained how we were at fault, but said, "I wouldn't make the change now." To this Captain Belnap remarked, "If the movement is not executed as it should be I will make the change, as my men will do anything I ask them to do," and we did as directed.

On the day of the parade we were again honored by being placed at the head. The day for the competitive drill had arrived and as we stood "at ease" behind the grand stand we were being groomed by two companies, one from Marshall, Michigan, and the other from Hamilton, Ohio. Our uniforms were brushed and our shoes wiped, and the captain of the latter company remarked, "Boys, you look spick and span—success to you." Finally we were called and as we made our entrance in front of the grand stand the applause was so deafening we could not hear the captain's commands. However, we managed to right ourselves and our captain was nice enough to take us into deep right field, halt us, and give us a chance to collect our thoughts and get squared away. We gave a marvelous exhibition and it was generally conceded in common talk around the camp that we had won first prize. What practically cinched the rumor was the following conversation. We had our own mess tent in charge of A. P. Green, and as the writer was the treasurer of the company I had been to the bank to cash a draft and had stopped at the Terre Haute Hotel on my return, where I accidentally came in contact with the three judges. I saluted them to which they responded. One of them said to me, "Hello, Michigan 17—you are the No. 1 man in the drill team, aren't you?" To which I responded, "I am." Another asked, "What would the people do if you came home with first prize?" "They would turn the town upside down," I answered. "You fellows gave a mighty fine exhibition," said the

other. I thanked them, gave a salute and was off to the camp with the good news. The next day the prizes were awarded to the winners in the several different classes by Major General A. J. Stobbard and we were all on hand to witness the ceremony, but how crestfallen we were when the result was given as follows: 1st Class—First prize goes to Marion, Indiana; Second to Eaton Rapids, Michigan; and the third to Washington, D.C. We had lost out by a fraction of a point. Rumor was that Major General Stobbard had given it to the Indiana Company as they had been very active for more than 20 years while we were only five years old. Another was that the German officer had given us a "bum steer" and that was our downfall. Many of the fellows thought it was the latter and tried to locate the officer but were unsuccessful. The next day we broke camp and when we arrived at the depot there was "our man." The fellows swarmed around him and gave him such a tongue lashing he must have thought "hell was out for noon." "Now is my golden opportunity," thought one Henry (Wab) Goodrich by name. He bought a package of gum, chewed it all until it was quite soft, then edged his way through the gang and in no endearing terms took the gum from his mouth and wrapped the old fellow's well-kept silken beard up in it. He used a considerable amount of pressure in the operation and remarked, "When you get that out of your spinach remember Island City Company No. 17 from Eaton Rapids, Michigan."

We arrived home Sunday morning and despite our defeat were met by many of our townspeople. The Company never took any active part in State or National Affairs after this as they felt they had been wronged and not given due consideration for their efforts. Then World War I had just been declared and from preparedness days to other war time activities many things of local interest had been forgotten. The Charter was surrendered in 1918. There are no Uniform Rank Companies in Michigan at this time. William E. Loomis was Brigadier General from November 16, 1897, to September 5, 1913. On August 1, 1914, he was appointed Major General to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Major General Stobbard. He held this office until

August 17, 1926. He died September 24, 1929.

Morris H. Beman was advanced from Major to Colonel in 1914.

A Knights of Pythias Episode

About 30 years ago several members of the Knights of Pythias Lodge were enjoying cards in their clubroom when one of the members entered rather solemnly. "Why the subdued mood?" chimed several of the fellows. J. Floyd Peterson, the newcomer, sat down and in a very sober voice said: "Boys, I am up against it; I have 80 acres of beans to harvest and cannot get any help."

All was silent for a few minutes and then everyone had an idea, but this was the one decided upon. He was told to get all of the beans pulled possible and a gang of us would be out the next day. Peterson went home with the good news and at day-break three double teams were pulling beans. About 10 o'clock between 20 and 25 Knights of Pythias assembled at his farm and began forking beans. At noon we sat down to a banquet. A 75-pound roast shoat graced the center of the table. It was standing with an apple in its mouth and ribbons adorned its ears and tail. Vira (Mrs. Peterson) had spared no pains in preparing a well-balanced meal, an abundance of everything, and we hungry hounds did justice to it.

From then on one team kept pulling beans, one gang forking, another loading the two wagons that were available and the balance mowing them away as they were unloaded from the wagons to the large bay in the mammoth barn. We worked until dark and again gathered around the festive board and tried to clean up on the roasted porker and all of the fixings, which we finally did to an exact nicety.

As we bade the Petersons good night, they thanked us profusely and wished us all success and happiness.

"Fellows," said Floyd, "I call this true fraternalism. You have harvested between 55 and 60 acres." Tears came in his eyes as he returned to the house.

We left with a song rending the air and as the full moon broke through the trees on the beautiful fall evening, we were all content that this was "The End of a Perfect Day."

I. O. O. F.

Eaton Rapids Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted February 15, 1866, with eight members, Charles Dean being the first Noble Grand. This small band was determined to make the lodge worth while and set out to increase its membership, which they did in a few brief years to eighty three and was officered as follows: Calvin L. Powers, Noble Grand; Orrin Rose, Vice Grand; Horace H. Spencer, Recording Secretary; Arthur E. North, Per. Secretary; Charles S. Dunbar, Treasurer. This lodge has always occupied a prominent place in fraternal circles in our city.

Their regular meetings are held every Friday night in the month.

In 1949 they purchased the Mrs. H. C. Minnie block (66 by 99 ft.) in the 200 block on South Main Street and rebuilt the second floor into fine quarters that meet all requirements of their fraternity.

The first floor is leased to the A. & P. Food store.

EATON RAPIDS ENCAMPMENT PATRIARCH MILITANT

Eaton Rapids Encampment Patriarch Militant was instituted in 1868 with eleven members, its first Chief Patriarch being Horace H. Spencer. A year later a complete list of officers was elected as follows: James Van Orsdell, Chief Patriarch; Charles S. Dunbar, High Priest; Cornelius Segar, Senior Warden; Milo Thompson, Junior Warden; Thomas J. Milbourn, Scribe; Solomon R. Fuller, Treasurer. As a rule this division of the lodge does not grow rapidly unless there is some activity in the higher branches of the Order. The regular meetings are held the first and third Tuesday in each month.

THE CANTON

Between 15 and 20 of the local members of the order belong to the Canton in Lansing. The advisability of a Canton being started here has been under discussion several times but the idea is lying dormant at the moment as their united efforts now are focused on the building purchased from Mrs. H. C. Minnie.

THE REBEKAH LODGE

The Sunshine Rebekah Lodge No. 142 was instituted May 3, 1910, in a hall on the third floor over the James H. Parks & Son Dry Goods Store. There had been a lodge prior to the present one, but the charter had been revoked in 1903. Mrs. Emma Niemann, President of the Rebekah Assembly of Michigan, was the installing officer. There were eight charter members and twenty initiates, of which six are now members.

The first elective officers were: Noble Grand, Mr. B. H. Custer; Vice Grand, Mrs. B. H. Custer; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Eula Russell-Burgess; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Bessie Galvin; Treasurer, Miss Donna Todd.

The second and fourth Tuesday nights were chosen for the time of meetings.

They now have a membership of over 200. Mrs. Bernice Charlefour acted as an officer from 1939 to 1945 when she was elected President of the State Assembly, a mighty fine compliment to a deserving lady. She filled the office very graciously for the year and the lodge should feel highly honored to have one of their members elevated to the highest office in the society.

THE IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN

Okemos Tribe No. 8 of the Improved Order of Red Men was organized in 1874 and had ten charter members. Its first Sachem was Mr. Henry A. Shaw. At a later date their membership had increased to thirty and the following held the offices: Charles Dunbar, Sachem; J. Z. Brainerd, C. S.; S. R. Ferris, J. S.; Sol Middleton, K. W.; B. E. Shaw, C. of R.; C. McCarty, P. F. M. Brainerd, District Deputy Sachem.

From the name the reader might be led to believe that it was a rough and rugged organization, but their teachings or ritual was of the highest order and the local lodge occupied a prominent place in the fraternal societies of our little city.

The costumes and paraphernalia were a duplication of those worn by the noble "red man" and used in his every-day living and warfare, and there is no doubt that the "war whoops" expostulated throughout their initiation would almost raise the departed brothers from their graves. There must have been

some horrible and blood curdling experiences dispersed throughout their ceremonies as one member used this ritualistic expression frequently. In speaking to the tenderfoot these encouraging lines would fall on his ears, "He has passed the ordeal and has the eagle's plume in his possession."

Their lodge rooms were a perfect museum of wild life very cleverly created by a skilled taxidermist and included mountain lions, bears, wild cats, and even the squirrels, hawks, owls, and eagles perched on the limbs of trees. We kids considered it a great privilege to be allowed to visit this inner sanctum and to get a closer view of these ferocious beasts and birds. Why shouldn't an organization of this nature be looked upon with great favor?

The Redman was the first American citizen. They never had much trouble in Government and as one local wag, Charles F. Parks, to be exact, used to remark; "We have made such a horrible mess running this country, we had better give it back to the Indians."

TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS

There are always a few people in every community that stand for the better things in life, viz; the church, law and order, and those who hold high the banner of temperance. The people of Eaton Rapids were no exception and in 1873 the Eaton Rapids Lodge No. 840 Independent Order Good Templars was organized. From the list of officers one can see they were a whole-hearted organization but for some reason never thrived numerically as there were less than fifty on its roster. In referring to the organization the initials were generally used, thus I.O.G.T. Some wag who conceived the idea that he was over-run with smartness construed the initials in this manner: "I Often Get Tight," which was not only an insult but an abuse to those Christian men and women who were endeavoring to make our little hamlet a better place in which to live. This, however, had no bearing as to the functioning of the movement as was later demonstrated.

On March 21, 1877, the Eaton Rapids Temperance Reform Club was organized and incorporated in December the same

year with about thirty members. The following officers were elected: Isaac N. Reynolds, President; George B. Hamlin, First Vice President; James Stirling, Second Vice President; E. Cowles, Third Vice President; A. P. Ball, Financial Secretary; Jennie Frost, Secretary; and L. T. White, Treasurer.

Its growth was phenomenal, for in a little over a year, more than 1600 had signed the pledge and received a little red ribbon as a token of their faith. Their number consisted of many prominent business men who drank more or less, but they never imbibed intoxicating beverages after that. In point of general results the work of the club had been well and faithfully performed.

The organization which had every reason to feel proud of its achievement erected a hall fifty by ninety feet to commemorate it. This hall had a fine stage with a twenty-four foot opening and a depth of twenty-three feet. The auditorium was twenty-seven feet high and had a seating capacity of approximately one thousand persons. This was our Opera House for many years, opening the avenue to a new line of entertainment. Up to this time local talent plays had been about the only kind of amusement produced for the citizens' pleasure, due mainly to the limited seating capacity of the auditorium and the inadequate stage facilities, which prevented any professional company's giving a performance here. For many years after the building of the new hall, we were privileged to enjoy many of the best road shows, minstrels, and concert companies which gave entertainments that were very well patronized. The hall was built of white brick with the exception of a row of red brick in the wall. This portion was unique in design and spoke a language all its own. A short distance below the eaves two rows of white brick were set out from the wall about one inch; then four rows of red brick were laid flush with the rest of the wall; above these, two other rows of white brick were set out in the same manner and from there to the eaves the white bricks were laid to correspond with the balance of the building. This gave the appearance of a wide red ribbon encased in a white frame as a symbol of the heroic efforts and accomplishments of the organization. The

heads of this shrine, dedicated to the betterment of man, should go down in history exemplifying the fact that one society had not failed in its precepts. Its achievements should be handed down to posterity.

The organization was known as the "Red Ribbon Club," which no doubt suggested the irregularity in the progress of laying the wall. The building was always referred to as the "Red Ribbon Hall." The first entertainment in the building was a lecture by Hon. Schuyler Colfax upon his favorite subject, "Lincoln." In 1924 the building was purchased by the Masonic bodies, remodeled, and is now our beautiful Masonic Temple.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Kiwanis Club

It was at the time that service clubs came into their own that a Kiwanis Club was formed here, being chartered December 12, 1922, the 18th in the State and the 871st in Kiwanis International.

Their first achievement was the preparation of the athletic field in 1924. They tiled the gridiron and raised it about a foot. They furnished the little Wise girl, an infantile paralysis victim, with a wheelchair. They purchased a horse and a closed body job for a young man who had lost his foot and had procured a position as a distributor of the Raleigh Products.

In 1926 they sponsored the club at Williamston. Clinics for children were held locally, at Charlotte, at Lansing and at Ann Arbor at different times.

For several years, they held apple exhibitions with prizes at the First National Bank every fall, and a poultry and pet animal show at the high school every spring. They inaugurated the first Merchants' and Manufacturers' Exposition for three nights featuring the Ford Eight, violin and piano soloists, a colored dancing team from the Jackson State Prison, and the Morlock Quads of Lansing. There were diversified programs with Munn's Band giving a concert each night. They sponsored the Lyceum course several seasons. They banquet the football

and basketball boys each year. Fielding H. Yost, coach at the University of Michigan, was secured as the speaker at one meeting.

They banqueted the kiddies at several Christmas dinners, distributed toys and furnished a movie at the Capitol theater. They have distributed full baskets of food and toys to the needy in the city. During the depression of 1933, the club sponsored the fruit and vegetable canning at the high school kitchen.

They held a booster banquet for the paving of M-99; Governor Alexander Groesbeck was the speaker. They organized the first Key Club (for school boys) and assist them materially in sending their delegates to the International meetings. Their aim is to assist all worthy causes in this locality, but their main objective is the underprivileged child.

Those serving as president are: David C. Burt, Hugh M. Hurd, Albert D. Werden, Glenn A. Spears, Millard D. Crawford, John B. Davidson, W. Scott Munn, William V. Clegg, Heileman O. Miller, Amaziah Crane, William E. Webster, Robert D. Gifford, Alden G. Sheets, Charles L. Poor, Bert Van Ark, Charles J. Winder, Wayne Fleenor, Charles D. Miller, William G. Kenney, Don Staebler, Wayne Gibson, John J. Miller, Walter J. Uhr, Helmer O. Nelson, John W. Bunker, Christopher Davidson, Robert Chaney, L. L. McNamara, Dwight Ballard, Earle J. Miller, Earl D. Rich and Carl Ackley. Past Lieutenants of the fifth division of the Michigan district: W. Scott Munn and Charles L. Poor.

Lions Club

In 1944 a Lions Club was organized and on May 9, an open meeting and banquet was held at the Masonic Temple at which time the charter was presented to the club.

Since its inception, the club has been very active in civic affairs. They have emphasized sight conservation and work with the blind, distributing white canes to the blind and sponsoring clinics for children. Eyes have been tested and lenses furnished. They have conducted Hallowe'en celebrations. They have headed several different drives for funds. The club installed the score board at the ball park. They have assisted in children's welfare in general.

Those who have served as president are: Sam Sage, Ray Gulliver, Victor Alt, Morris Trimble, Clifford Rowe, Michael Montie, Milford Moore, Russell McCormick, and Leo W. Benjamin.

The Eaton Rapids Improvement Association

The above association, consisting of about forty business men, has been formed to assist the populace and all civic organizations in their problems, to promote better living conditions, to stimulate the building of homes and to assist any old or new enterprises seeking a location.

It is not affiliated with any similar organization, yet it has acted as a clearing-house or Chamber of Commerce, and all propositions which it has become interested in have been handled efficiently and well.

It has issued a folder (10,000 in number) depicting the beauties and advantages of the "Only Eaton Rapids on Earth," both industrially and agriculturally.

The officers: Lynn F. Baldwin, president; Harold A. Pettit, vice-president; Edgar L. Buechler, secretary, and George L. Pettit, Jr., treasurer.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce

At the close of World War II, our boys who had been serving their country in the preservation of humanity and had been stationed at the four quarters of the globe, began drifting home and were wondering what niche in society would be open to them; some decided to attend college; others returned to their former positions; some became affiliated with various new fields of labor. Four years ago they were the "kids" of yesterday; now they were the young business men of tomorrow.

There are always some who obtain a different perspective on life. One of these was Frank J. Miller, who became associated with one of the leading real estate and insurance agencies in our city. While he and his buddies became members of either the Veterans of Foreign War or American Legion Posts, yet they felt that there was something lacking. The ethics of modern business were changing rapidly and they wondered what the business man of today should do to cope with these changes. He approached several of his associates. They become interested and

their unanimous solution was to organize a Junior Chamber of Commerce.

On March 10, 1947, a meeting was called. Members of the Jackson Jaycees came and laid the foundation for the local organization and on May 12, 1947, a banquet was held at the high school auditorium, with over 300 of the citizens attending, at which time the charter was presented by the Jackson Club and the local body became the Eaton Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce which automatically made them affiliated with the State and National Jaycees. Mr. Miller was the unanimous choice for president by the twenty-seven charter members.

The boys realize their responsibility, have accepted the challenge and are fulfilling the precepts as laid down by the Jaycee code.

The several committees were appointed as designated in the By-laws and they immediately went into action contacting the City Commission, churches, school board, service clubs, fraternal societies, factory executives, business and professional men, soliciting some ideas for the betterment of conditions in general throughout our city.

They have been active in the March of Dimes and Safety Programs; they have planned street decorations at Christmas; they have initiated Clean-Up Week; they have promoted Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns, and have conducted successfully two Merchants' and Manufacturers' Expositions.

No one doubts that whatever they attempt will be well done.

THE EATON RAPIDS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

For many years, the farmers and those interested in horticulture in this vicinity conducted meetings at the Red Ribbon Hall for several days each winter, and they had formed the Eaton Rapids Horticulture Society. Several forcible speakers attended these meetings, one of the more important ones being Charles Garfield of Grand Rapids, an authority along these lines, who was president for many years of the Western Michigan Fair held in that city each fall. Theodore Farrand of this city specialized in this work and his services were in great demand throughout the state.

Fairs were becoming very popular in different parts of the state and as Eaton Rapids was located in a very thriving agricultural community, the idea of having a fair here began to gain favor, largely through the efforts of Henry A. Shaw. He called a meeting of those interested at his office on July 21, 1880, to discuss the advisability of promoting and organizing a fair. William Miller was elected chairman and A. D. Saxton, secretary. One thing that lent enthusiasm to the project was that an ideal location was available. It was pointed out that the Eaton Rapids Driving Park Association had laid out their tracks and erected their buildings and that there was abundant space at the extreme north end of their Park to establish buildings for the Fair. The two organizations could work together, and thereby create two means of entertainment that would tend to draw people to our little city. By our hospitable manner, for which we have always been noted, we could make them feel their visitation was most welcome. It was further agreed to include the following townships in the Society: Eaton Rapids, Hamlin, Brookfield, Eaton, Windsor in Eaton County; Onondaga and Aurelius in Ingham County; and Springport in Jackson County. Representatives in the city and in the various townships were selected to solicit funds for the erection of the Floral Hall, Fruit and Vegetable Hall and other buildings. A joint meeting was held between the two Associations and an open discussion was carried on in regard to the feasibility of sponsoring a project of that nature. When the Agricultural Society told of their plans and what success they had attained in interesting the community as a whole and especially those in the rural districts, the proposition was met with favor by those at the head of the Driving Park Association.

A second meeting was held on September 11, 1880, at which time it was reported that the response of those who were elected for soliciting funds had been most gratifying. The lumber for the buildings had been contracted for and the Floral Hall and the Fruit and Vegetable Hall were well under way. At this meeting the officers, directors and superintendents of the different departments were elected for the coming year as follows:

William Miller, president; Alanson Osborn, secretary; Albert D. Saxton, treasurer; Board of Directors: Henry A. Shaw, Sidney Allen, Moses H. Bailey, Allen Crawford, Alfred Parker, William P. Green and Dr. S. R. Fuller. Arthur P. Green, Supt. of Fruits and Vegetables; Stanley Freeman, Supt. of Sheep; Nelson Howell, Supt. of Cattle; William Ward, Supt. of Swine.

Arthur P. Green was considered one of the very best judges of fruit in that day, and his services were very much in demand in this city, as well as in the surrounding territory and adjoining states.

The Floral Hall was built in the form of a cross: each cross section, seventy-two feet by twenty-four feet, was situated about 200 feet south of the entrance, and in direct line with the house recently built by Frank J. Klooze. The fruit and vegetable hall was about twenty-five feet west of the Floral Hall. The cattle stalls stood to the extreme west near the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern tracks. The sheep and swine pens were erected back of the Hansen Packing Company plant adjacent to the present quoit-pitching grounds. The Agricultural Implements occupied the space in front of the Floral Hall on either side of the entrance drive.

The Fair was very popular from the time of its inception. Entries in all departments were well-filled. There were three full afternoons of excellent horse racing, well-patronized. The last Fair was held in 1893. There is no record as to why it was discontinued, nor does any one now living, who was connected with the Fair at that time, know the reason. It might have been decided between the Associations that two large Fairs in one county were too much, and perhaps the local board gave way to the Eaton County Agricultural Society as that Fair had been in existence the longer. At any rate, James H. Gallery of this city was made President of the County Fair in 1894, and held that position for many years. He was succeeded by Will E. Hale also of this city.

The reader will note that in those days when a project was proposed, the entire populace of the city and adjacent community got behind it and made it a success. The records do not state

whether a premium list was issued the first year or not, yet it does speak of the Fair as being a very successful one. The first meeting was held July 21 and the first day of the Fair was October 13, an intermim of eighty-four days. I guess that is "going some." That's cooperation.

THE SALVATION ARMY

It was not long after the closing of the skating rink that the Salvation Army took the building for their barracks. A partition was erected in the center of the building; the front portion was used for their meetings and the back part fitted up for living quarters for the officers.

Their first Captain was one of the finest ladies ever delegated to conduct the destinies of any institution. She had a charming manner. Her voice was soft and low, yet full of compassion. Fully realizing the scope of her mission, she worked diligently to show those less interested the true meaning of the Christian religion and the teachings of the Master.

With all of those outstanding qualities the way was hard and rough. Many, many times she pleaded for funds from her audience in order to procure adequate sustenance for the Army's daily keep, as the majority of the members were of the poorer classes. Occasionally those in attendance at her services were of the tougher element, yet they proved they had hearts of gold as they would fill the tambourine with bills and many times left the meetings, returning with a diversified amount of provisions that would fill the empty larder to overflowing. They were rough, indiscreet and unmindful of the hereafter, yet attributes of this nature should never go unnoticed. While not considering it a sacrifice on their part, they had answered the call of one of God's Good Angels, and should be entitled to at least one small star in their crown. There is not so much bad in some of us, but you will find some good in most of us.

On account of lack of interest locally and because the officers were not able to see a future worthwhile here, they were stationed in another city.

LADIES' ORGANIZATIONS

During the 1890's there were three ladies' clubs organized,

but there are no records available as to the exact time. The writer will give the names of those who were the first presidents and no doubt had much to do with their formation.

The Ladies' History Club—Mrs. Jennie Bradley

The U and I Club—Dr. Mary A. W. Williams

The Ladies' Pioneer Club—Mrs. Margaret LaFever

The latter two clubs are in existence at the present time.

Post Auxiliaries

There would not be a complete history of the ladies' organizations of our city, without mentioning the Auxiliary Corps connected with each Army Post.

There are no records available as to the time or the sponsors of the Woman's Relief Corps, but the writer is led to believe that it was started in the early '80's, shortly after James B. Brainerd Post 111 G.A.R. was organized. Those ladies foremost in the Corps were Mesdames Eli Cook and George Norton and, as the former was very active at its inception, she was undoubtedly its first president. Later Mrs. J. J. Holmes was a potent factor in the organization. It is no longer in existence.

The auxiliary of the Howard Teeter Post No. 15 American Legion was founded in 1919. Those influential in this organization were Mesdames Theo Maupin, Harriet Brunk and Maude Leonard; the latter is the only charter member living. Mrs. Maupin had three sons in the war, Hall, Kenneth and Layton, all members of the 119th Field Artillery, and to her was extended the honor of being the first president of the group.

The auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home Post No. 1283 was organized in 1931. In connection with this a love story crept into the picture.

Paula Babin, a French lassie, was born in Bordeaux and, at the completion of her college course, entered Red Cross work in Calais, later returning to her home in Saumur.

Arthur E. Littlefield, a local boy, connected with the 119th Field Artillery was an instructor in the American Artillery School at that place. The two met and became very dear friends. The friendship culminated in an engagement.

Mr. Littlefield returned here at the close of the war. His bride came to the United States on February 21, 1920, and they were married that day at Grace Episcopal Church in New York, since which time this city has been their home.

Mrs. Littlefield was very active in the organization of the V.F.W. Auxiliary. She was its first president, and was re-elected for four consecutive years. In 1938 she was chosen Department President of Michigan. She is also a past National officer having served two years as National Home Fund Chairman and six years as National Musician.

Would that all our people were as loyal to the flag as Mrs. Littlefield. She states that she is very thankful that she is an American citizen, and says, "I will never forget the help the Americans have given to France and by being active in the V.F.W. and the community I am in a small way endeavoring to show my gratitude."

The Eaton Rapids Business and Professional Woman's Club

This club was organized in 1932. Two of the officers chosen were Mrs. Clara Squires, president, and Mrs. Eva Chadwick, vice-president. The unit is affiliated with the National and International Federation.

The group is a civic organization participating in local and state public affairs and is composed of active business and professional women.

They send two girls to camp each summer, contribute to all local agencies, and work consistently for the Cancer Foundation.

They finance one large project each year. Last year (1950), \$700 was presented to the Stimson Hospital for operating equipment, and this year \$400 will be given to the Eaton County Infirmary.

The organization now has sixty-five members.

MILITARY HISTORY

Wars

What an unpopular and unpleasant subject to inject into a history! Yet since the beginning of time, there have been conflicts and there always will be, regardless of what the peoples of the world do to prevent it.

During the past eighty-nine years we have passed through four of these conflicts, when the cream of our youth have been called to the slaughter. Now we are confronted with the cold war with Russia. What will the outcome be? No one but the Almighty can foresee that.

Our little community has always been well-represented in all of these engagements by those who ably assisted in carrying "Old Glory" to victory.

Civil War

One could not write a history of any community and overlook the bitter strife that nearly cut our Republic in twain—the Civil War.

Hundreds from this community answered the call. Two families, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Knight and Mr. and Mrs. Abner H. Brainerd, each had three sons in the war, the former, Amos, Edward and William Knight, and the latter, William D., Frank M., and James B. Brainerd. All returned, but "Jimmie," and his remains were returned home and lie in the family plot in Rose Hill. The writer is sure that the Montgomery and Post families had several sons in the war also.

Among the scores from here who took part in the rebellion the following received the rank of commissioned officers:

HENRY A. SHAW, *Major*

CAPTAINS

John H. Hamlin	William Bierbower	L. B. Willis
John D. Montgomery	Philip Wang	Horace M. Buck
	George A. Armstrong	

LIEUTENANTS:

James B. Brainerd	Birney E. Shaw
William B. Brainerd	Edward P. Knight
George W. Norton	Robert B. Montgomery
R. D. Wood	Henry F. Thomas
William T. Merritt	John S. Montgomery
Alexander J.H. Brewer	Ezra Z. Montgomery

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Frank M. Brainerd—*Bugler*

George V. Messeroll—*Quartermaster Sergeant*

Assistant Surgeons:

Samuel M. Wilkins
Amos Knight
William H. Paine

Musicians:

John L. Sample
Charles W. Hewett

First Michigan Sharpshooter: Eli Cook

Spanish-American War

The following enlisted in the defense of our country: G. Elmer McArthur, Fred Brainerd, Jesse Stringham, Frank Brainerd, Charles Washburn, Roy Van Wagner, Fred Swift, Rufus Spencer, Otis and Herbert Finch, Bert Lyon, Bert Pickworth and Homer Covey—the latter two died at the front. The Finch boys served in the Philippines. Bert Lyon and Otis Finch, musicians, were members of their Regimental bands. Congressman Roy O. Woodruff, a local boy, was living in Owosso at that time, and joined the State Militia at that place.

World War I

Hundreds from here answered the call, nearly twenty-five joining the 119th Field Artillery of Lansing, Col. McCormick commanding.

From this contingent we suffered one casualty; Charles Rora-beck had been injured in battle and was convalescing in a Field Hospital on Pray Farm, near Chateau Thierry, when it was hit by a German shell which destroyed and killed most of the occupants. His remains were returned here and are at rest in a crypt in the mausoleum.

Shortly after his return from the front, Layton Maupin died of complications resulting from the conflict and was laid to rest in Rose Hill. He was tendered a full military funeral. Harold J. Teeter, before going across, became seriously ill and was taken to a Federal Hospital at Asheville, North Carolina, where he died in 1919. The remains were returned here and given a full military funeral with the burial in Oakwood Cemetery. The local post was named for him—Harold J. Teeter Post American Legion No. 15.

Ivan D. Laird was Master Electrician in the 4th Infantry in France; G. Elmer McArthur had the appointment of Second Lieutenant.

World War II

Again we were called to arms and the young men and a few young ladies rallied to the colors. There were several casualties. Those whose remains have been returned here are Max Higgins and Paul Scott. Edgar D. Stark, a graduate of West Point, holding a commission of Lieutenant Colonel, was killed in Italy in 1944. His remains were returned to this country in 1949 and laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery. He graduated from our public schools in 1928, and was a nephew of Edgar L. Buechler. Ralph Miller and Glen Marr, Jr., are two other casualties.

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The writer is pleased to have the records relative to the institution of the G.A.R. Post here and quotes the following: "The Post was organized March 14, 1883, and named in memory of Lieut. James B. Brainerd, 6th Michigan Heavy Artillery, who died at New Orleans, Louisiana, June 3, 1864." The Post at one time had 416 names on its roster. The records of the Post are complete from its inception in 1883 to 1916, but since then and up to the time it ceased to exist there is nothing available.

Below are listed the names of those that were elected Commander of the Post:

John H. Hamlin
William Bierbower
Samuel M. Wilkins

Joseph Rolph
John J. Holmes
William D. Brainerd

H. J. Milbourn
 George W. Norton
 William Spicer
 James Umbarger
 Henry B. Olmstead
 Gorham B. Blair
 Charles B. Fowler
 Luman A. Fowler
 Eli Cook
 Frank M. Brainerd

Denois M. Beman
 Roswell West
 Alonzo Cheney
 George B. Noble
 Nathan J. DeBar
 William D. Fuller
 John C. Thompson
 Lucian W. Ransay
 Loren D. Chapman
 John M. Putnam

The Post should feel proud of the fact that one of their Comrades, John J. Holmes, was elected Department Commander of the State in Flint in July, 1921, and served for one year. John Henderson, the last living veteran of the Post, answered the last call June 11, 1936. John Henderson's next of kin living is his daughter, Mrs. Mable Hutchinson.

Next of kin that are living of the above officers are: William Bierbower's daughter, Miss Lou Bierbower of Grand Rapids; George W. Norton's granddaughter, Mrs. Nola Winn of this city; James Umbarger's son and daughter, Roy and Mrs. Mattie Harris of this city; daughters, Mesdames Anna Davis of Grand Junction, Colorado; Eva Peck and son of Lansing; and grandchildren James H. Umbarger of this city, Mesdames Abbie Britten of Lansing and Ida Martin of Stanwood, Michigan.

Charles B. Fowler's sons, C. B. Fowler, Jr., of Dixon, Illinois, and Walter; daughter Bessie Forward; and grandchildren, George and Rhea Miller, Dorothy Colburn and Mildred Spencer of this city, Mrs. Helen Stuart of Ann Arbor, Floyd Fowler of East Lansing, and Mrs. Mary Haven of Jackson.

Luman A. Fowler's daughters, Mesdames Mae Withrow of Los Gatos, California, and Rena Klink, and his grandson, Glen Fowler, of this city.

Eli Cook's children, Charles Cook, Mrs. Mattie Holcomb, grandchildren Grace and Henry Holcomb of Charlotte, Glen Holcomb, Professor at State School in Oregon.

Frank M. Brainerd's grandson, Hugh M. Brainerd of this city.

John J. Holme's son, Leo Holmes of Hanover and his daughter, Mrs. Ruth Gray of this city.

William D. Brainerd's daughter, Mrs. Effie Pollard, her son James Pollard of DeLand, Florida.

Nathan J. DeBar's son, William DeBar of Ann Arbor. William D. Fuller's grandsons, Warren and Cecil Farrand of Lansing. John C. Thompson's daughter, Miss Myrtle Thompson of this city. Loren D. Chapman's grandson, Edgar L. Buechler of this city.

THE EATON COUNTY BATTALION OF THE THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The Eaton County Battalion of the Grand Army of the Republic was composed of the posts in the different places in the county, organized primarily for a get-together or reunion which was held each summer at one of the cities voted by the Council of Administration, which was composed of the Battalion Officers and two delegates from the various posts.

Posts that Constituted the Eaton County Battalion were:

Post No. 40	A. S. Williams	Charlotte
Post No. 107	Tim Lewis	Dimondale
Post No. 108	Earl Halbert	Grand Ledge
Post No. 111	James B. Brainerd	Eaton Rapids
Post No. 112	John Cryderman	Mulliken
Post No. 163	Edward Dwight	Vermontville
Post No. 213	James B. Mason	Bellevue
Post No. 256	George A. Walker	Partello
Post No. 275	Lewis Clark	Olivet
Post No. 283	S. M. Grinnell	Sunfield
Post No. 326	O. D. Jackson	Potterville

The officers in the Battalion were Colonel Commanding, Lieutenant Colonel, Quartermaster, Quartermaster Sergeant, Sergeant Major, Chaplain, Surgeon and Adjutant.

There is no record as to the exact date or place the Battalion was instituted, but the record at hand (incomplete) gives the year 1883 and shows that the eighth encampment was held in the village of Olivet in 1890 (George W. Keyes, Colonel Commanding), at which time it was voted by the Council of Administration to hold the next encampment in the city of Charlotte.

At a meeting of the Council of Administration held in Charlotte on June 20, 1891, it was voted to attend the National Encampment at Detroit the first week in August and it was further decided that on account of National Encampment, the County Battalion Encampment should be postponed until the following year and the elected officers hold over.

From the record I quote the following: "The Eaton County Battalion went to Detroit to attend the National Encampment. Quarters were furnished at Camp Walker, Detroit, where the Colonel of the Battalion established his headquarters. The Battalion, nearly 800 strong, participated in the general parade on Tuesday, August 4. Everything passed in a pleasant manner."

At each encampment the Council of Administration selected the Colonel Commanding and, as an honor to him, the reunion was automatically held in the city of the Post of which he was a member.

At a subsequent meeting it was voted that the Battalion should furnish the campground, also wood, straw for beds, and water, and that each post furnish its own tents, hay, and provisions. Later tents were set up in company or post streets and each post was segregated and the set-up was as nearly like military regulations as possible. The encampment generally lasted five days.

The post entertaining, with the assistance of citizens, generally arranged a full program. One of the imposing sights was the dress parade at sunset each day. The Battalion was drawn up in a company front before the Battalion officers for inspection. The Dimondale fife and drum corps were always present to "troop-the-line" and after its completion, each post swung into line and marched to their quarters. The fife and drum corps consisted of "Jakie" Riggles and Albert Bateman on fifes; Edwin Vanderbeck

and Ed French snare drum, (they were sometimes accompanied by Cornelius M. Letts, of this city, on snare drum); and Andrew Pray on bass drum. They always made a hit whenever they attended the Battalion meetings, State and National Encampments. (Riggles, Letts and Pray were Civil War Veterans).

At the close of the Battalion meeting held in Charlotte August 30, 1907, it was voted that the next meeting be held in Eaton Rapids. The city council gave the Battalion the permission to use the Island. A committee of citizens helped them pitch their tents, and furnished straw for their beds. The new Charlotte Gas Company piped gas to the island and installed several gas ranges, housed in a tent, for their convenience. Being only one-half block from the business section, the setting was ideal, enabling them to purchase their supplies every day. Besides this, a Citizens' Day was held with all kinds of entertainment for their pleasure, with band concerts at their campfire at night. It was voted again to meet at Eaton Rapids and this was continued from year to year until it was thought best to cancel the Encampment. In 1927 there were only thirty-four comrades registered against about 1500 at the start, and in 1929 the number was considerably less.

Thus the Eaton County Battalion which had been with us every August for the past twenty-two years passed out of existence, but the memory of those old boys clad in blue, their hair tinged with grey and their step faltering, will remain with the older generations for all time.

From the records of the last meeting of the Battalion.

August 14, 1929:

"The business meeting of the Eaton County Battalion was called to order by N. P. Bateman (Dimondale), Colonel Commanding

It was moved and supported that the Eaton County Battalion G.A.R. be discontinued—motion carried.

Moved and supported that Charles T. Hartson and Loren D. Chapman take the Battalion flag to Lansing and place it in the Capitol in care of the proper authorities—motion carried.

Motion to adjourn—motion carried."

John M. Putnam—Battalion Adjutant

N. P. Bateman—Colonel Commanding

Below is a list of local veterans that held the two top offices during the existence of the Battalion.

<i>Colonel Commanding</i>	<i>Battalion Adjutant</i>
George W. Norton.....	H. Jonathan Milbourn
Charles B. Fowler.....	William D. Brainerd
William D. Brainerd.....	John M. Putnam
John C. Thompson.....	Henry B. Olmstead
Henry B. Olmstead.....	C. Leroy Evans
John J. Holmes.....	Charles B. Fowler
Eli Cook.....	George B. Noble
John M. Putnam	
Alonzo Cheney	

THE PINGREE GUARDS

In 1896 the young men of this community became overly-anxious and imbued with the thought that it would be very fitting to organize a Military Company.

Ira L. McArthur had just moved here from Grand Rapids, where he had been a member of one of the companies of the Grand Rapids Battalion.

Mason was a city about our size and a company had been stationed there for many years.

A meeting was called for those interested in the movement, a committee appointed to procure the necessary papers, and at a subsequent date the company was organized and the following officers elected: Ira L. McArthur, Captain; Harry C. Carr, First Lieutenant; Clark L. Belnap, Second Lieutenant; G. Elmer McArthur, Adjutant.

It did not take long to enlist the number to company strength, and in order to "make a hit" and thereby enhance our chances of being taken into the State Militia, the unit was named the "Pingree Guards" in honor of Hon. Hazen S. Pingree, who was Governor of the State at that time. We drilled hard and long and became quite proficient in military tactics. Our next move was to be equipped with uniforms and side arms.

At that time the uniforms of the State Militia had been changed to a blue blouse, grey trousers and slouch hat, tan in color. We had to "pull every string" possible to obtain a release

of the discarded uniforms, as an order had been issued for them to be destroyed. However, our efforts were finally rewarded, as the Quartermaster General received instructions from some source to equip the company with the required number of uniforms, which consisted of a coat and hat—no trousers. The coat was a three-quarter length garment (Prince Albert in name) buttoned to the waist; the helmet was of German design with a spike in the crown; white duck trousers, white gloves, and black shoes completed the uniform.

Our next problem was to procure side arms, as anything of that nature could not be supplied by the Quartermaster General at any price. Our next best bet was to have some "dummies" made. They were manufactured of hard wood, a facsimile of the regular army rifle, stained the correct color. They had the appearance of the "real thing." They were also weighted with strips of iron, steel, or lead in order to handle well and assist the operator in exhibiting his prowess in the gun manual.

Our first appearance was on Decoration Day, May 30, 1897. We were a proud bunch of boys presenting a very "natty" appearance. We entered the parade behind the G.A.R., and after the exercises gave an exhibition drill.

We attended the Eaton County Fair at Charlotte that fall and gave a similar exhibition.

During this time many influential friends were doing everything in their power toward having the company located here, but to no avail.

At the advent of the year 1898, diplomatic relations between the United States and Spain were running at a very low ebb, and this country was thrown into a fervor of excitement when the news came flashing over the wire that at 9:40 p.m. on the 15th day of February, the battleship Maine had been destroyed in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, causing the death of 266 of our sailors and marines. The indignation of our people had reached a "boiling point." They demanded action. Notes between the two countries were exchanged fast and furiously, without an agreement being

reached, so without further delay "At 1:30 o'clock in the morning of April 19, 1898, Congress at Washington passed a series of resolutions which virtually ended all friendly relations between the United States and Spain." What did this mean? War? Yes, indeed, and the Captains of the units in the State Militia were given orders to enlist their companies to military strength and to be prepared for action at any time.

What did this mean to "The Pingree Guards"? Listen, gentle readers. Have you ever heard the expression that some particular object or being would last no longer than a "snow ball in hades"? This was finish for the hero worshippers, "The Pingree Guards." The organization ceased to exist; the uniforms were returned to the Quartermaster General.

Several of our boys enlisted. An account of this is given under the caption, "Spanish-American War."

LEST WE FORGET

Have we forgotten the four principal events when our very existence stood at the threshold of fate? I am speaking of Independence Day—Memorial Day—Armistice Day—and V.J. Day.

The young folks of today have no conception of what the Fourth of July used to mean. That celebration was one big thrill from start to finish. Boys and girls with their bunches of little firecrackers. Salute at sunrise. The city dressed in its prettiest with flags and streamers flung to the breezes. Wagon loads of country folk, dressed in their Sunday best and with well-filled picnic baskets for the noonday meal, swarming into town. The big parade at 10 o'clock consisting of two or three bands and floats by the different merchants. Orator of the day on Island Park. Dinner. Sports on Main Street. Foot races for men and women, both young and old. Three-legged and wheel-barrow races. Climbing a greased pole and catching a greased pig. Tug-of-war between the two townships. Boat and tub races on the river. Ball game, band concerts, bowery dances and fire works from the big brick building (Foote and Custer) in the evening. Not a dull moment—one continuous round of pleasure. Have we outgrown this simple yet outstanding day of days?

MEMORIAL DAY

Three years after the close of the Civil War, 1868, General John A. Logan conceived the idea of setting aside a day to be known as Memorial Day, for the purpose of honoring those fallen heroes of the Union Army that had given their life's blood in order that this nation could be saved and once more be made up of God-loving people. The measure was welcomed by the veterans. May 30 was the day selected. A bill was enacted in both houses of Congress, signed by the President and it became a legal holiday.

The general idea was to decorate the graves of the honored dead, and hold exercises to commemorate the sacrifice they had made in reuniting the Union. Thus the name Decoration Day crept into the picture and in a way was substituted for Memorial Day.

The day has always been observed here in a very fitting manner. For many years the Veterans and their wives (Woman's Relief Corps) always held a picnic dinner at their headquarters that preceded the exercises, held at the Red Ribbon Hall.

After dinner the line was formed and how proud and natty those old boys looked, clad in their blue suits, brass buttons, slouch hats, which were adorned on the front by a silver wreath that enclosed the letters G.A.R. From their left breast swung the insignia of their organization. This insignia was an eagle sitting on crossed cannon barrels, and a merging of cannon balls from which hung a miniature "Old Glory," and from this was suspended a star, inclosing a medallion in the center of which were miniature figures with hands clasped, denoting peace.

As the band "sounded off," the G.A.R. swung into line and proceeded to the Hall where the following program was generally carried out. General Orders from the Commander of the National Headquarters and the Department of Michigan of the G.A.R.; singing; roll call of the dead, (the local veterans that had passed on during the year); Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and a speaker of prominence.

At the close, the line of march was again taken up and as they entered the cemetery, the solemn tones of the dirge pealed forth from the band, and with measured step the procession continued to the triangle in the center of Rose Hill where the Woman's Relief Corps and other loyal women had erected a monument to mark the place of interment of our men of valor. After brief exercises at the monument, there were three volleys by the firing squad and taps. The march was resumed and with quickened step of some military selection, the contingent returned to Headquarters and all was over for another year.

Later the exercises were held in the park or school auditorium if the weather was inclement. The writer can truthfully say that not to his knowledge has Memorial or Decoration Day gone by without being observed. It is hoped the day will never be disregarded.

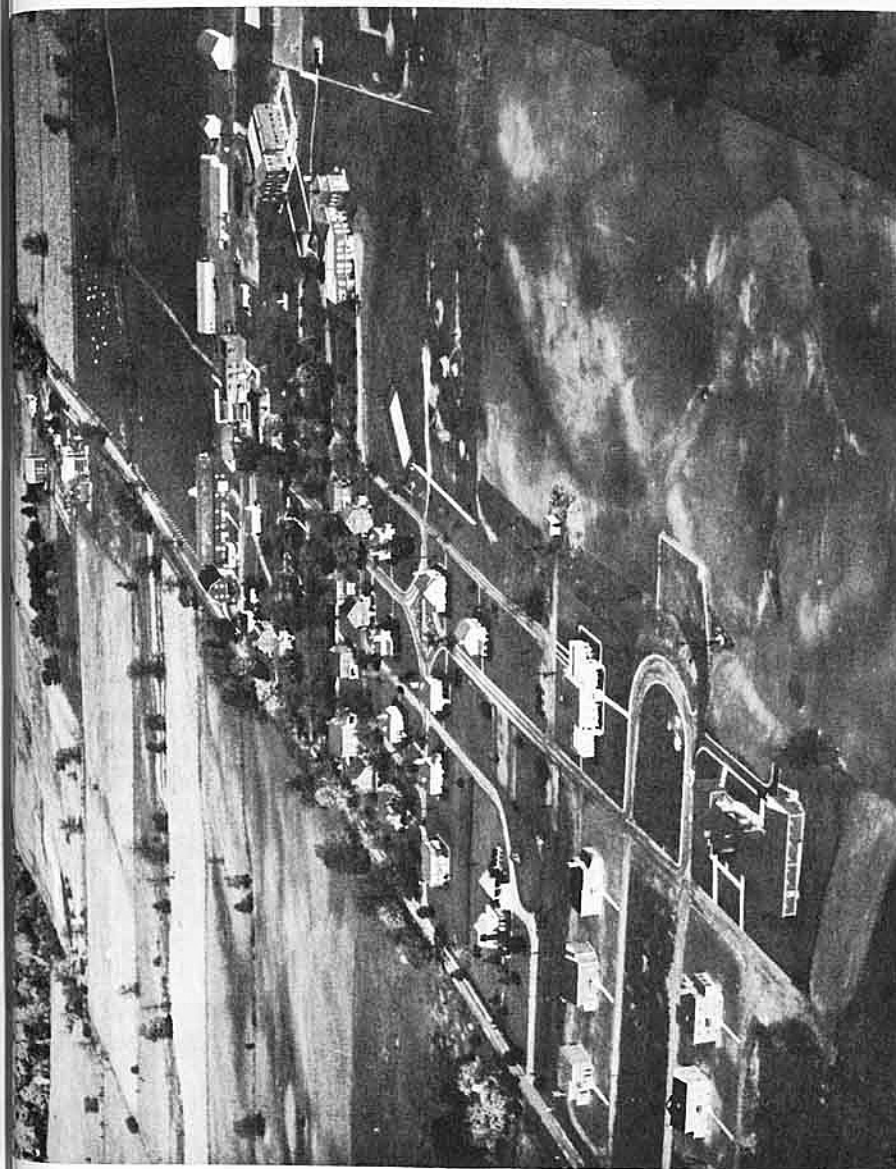
The writer can recall several dignitaries who participated in these exercises, viz: Hon. Julius Caesar Burroughs, of Kalamazoo; Hon. Washington Gardner of Albion; Hon. James O'Donnell and Hon. Charles E. Townsend of Jackson; Hon. Frank A. Dean of Charlotte; Hon. Martin V. Montgomery, a local man born on the Plains road; Hon. Lawton T. Hemans of Mason; Hon. Russell A. Alger of Detroit (former Governor of the State and Secretary of War in President McKinley's Cabinet); and Col. O. R. Janes of Detroit. The latter person had charge of the Pension Office in Detroit. Until checks were issued by the Pension Bureau of Washington each veteran was obliged to send in a voucher every three months to the Detroit Office and the checks were issued there and returned to the pensioner.

NOVEMBER 11:

For many years this day was observed with very appropriate ceremonies, but the boys of World War I didn't seem to care particularly about the respected attention which is due them, so the day in many instances has passed into one of frivolity and some stellar attraction has entered the picture.

AUGUST 14:

This day has not been acknowledged by Congress as a legal holiday but in due time will be placed in that category.



NATIONAL V.F.W. HOME

THE V.F.W. NATIONAL HOME

Eaton Rapids feels justly proud that immediately outside of its borders is located "The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home", an institution for the purpose of creating a home for the widows and orphans of disabled and deceased veterans.

This land, originally a farm consisting of 472 acres, has a historical background, and includes that taken up from the government on January 8, 1836, by Rue Perrien. It is beautifully situated on the bank of Grand River, thereby making it an ideal spot for raising stock, which Mr. Perrien did for many years.

At his death it was purchased by J. Warren Sheldon, who erected a commodious farm house, a mammoth barn and out-buildings. He specialized in raising blooded stock in large numbers and it became known as the Grand River Stock Farm.

It was later acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Corey J. Spencer of Jackson, who concurred in the idea of making it a national shrine for the dependents of deceased veterans. At the National Encampment held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, in September, 1924, the opportunity of securing in the form of a gift an equity valued at \$25,000 in this farm, was presented and a committee was appointed by the Commander-in-Chief for investigation. A report was to be made to the National Council of Administration. Their findings being favorable, they were presented to the Council and the acceptance of the property was officially approved by the 26th National Encampment held at Tulsa, Oklahoma, in September, 1925. A National Home for the Veterans of Foreign Wars was a plan conceived by Albert J. Rabing when he was Commander-in-Chief in 1916 and he felt that his mission had been accomplished when the Home became a reality. After his term of office expired, Comrade Rabing continued his activity in V.F.W. circles, thoroughly loyal to the cause of the veterans and his loved ones.

From the moment he first conceived the plan of a V.F.W.

National Home for the care of widows and orphans of deceased veterans, until the very day of his passing on April 3, 1927, Past Commander-in-Chief Rabing devoted all of his energy and effort toward the realization of an ideal that has always proved the guiding spirit of the organization itself in the development of this undertaking. The V.F.W. National Home stands as a monument to the memory of America's honored dead and especially to the memory of Past Commander-in-Chief Albert J. Rabing. A bronze plaque, on the cottage which was erected at the National Home by the department of New York in 1928, will stand forever as a tribute to the humanitarian impulse that inspired the founder of the V.F.W. National Home. Several parcels of land adjoining the Home have been purchased at different times until it now comprises 640 acres.

Immediately adjacent to the river is the beautiful picnic grounds of about ten acres, thickly studded with maples. Here are dispersed tables where hundreds that make their pilgrimage here each year from every state in the union can partake of their food and quench their thirst with a cool drink from the ever-flowing spring and then visit this sacred shrine dedicated to those heroes who lost their lives, that we might live in peace and security, ever bearing in mind the will of the Almighty Father that all men are born or created equal.

On March 9, 1925, the widow of Sgt. Edward Pollet, an active member of Macomb County Post No. 1146 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at Halfway, Michigan, and her six fatherless children arrived at the National Home as the first proteges of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. They were housed in the farm house and were soon acclimated to their new surroundings.

The management of the property was placed in charge of Roy Williams who owned an adjoining farm and he acted in that capacity until January, 1927, when the Board of Trustees employed Mr. Charles F. Adams, formerly of Missouri and later of the Vocational School at Lansing, as the Director who held that position until 1951. Mr. Adams is a veteran of World War I and has had a considerable amount of experience in children's

work and their problems. Both he and Mrs. Adams have done a marvelous piece of supervision. It is only through their combined efforts and timely instructions that the National Home enjoys the success that it does. Their kindly treatment, extended to all children alike, has made them universally liked and respected by them, the matrons and all those connected with the Home in their several activities.

The V.F.W. National Home was conceived, created and developed wholly within the V.F.W. of the U.S.A. A simple farm home surrounded by a group of modern, well-equipped farm buildings formed the nucleus around which is being constructed an actual community of neat and attractive cottages, community center, a place to worship, a hospital, administrative building, parks, drives, athletic fields and supervised playgrounds. When the National Home was founded in 1925, it represented an ideal of stewardship voluntarily assumed by America's foreign service veterans. When the V.F.W. pledged itself to a program of child welfare among those children whose fathers have paid the supreme sacrifice, it refused to consider any halfway plan that would never constitute more than a puny gesture. The birth of the V.F.W. National Home was the result, with a definite purpose in view and a real humanitarian ambition.

The first cottage was erected by the Department of Michigan in 1925 and the laying of the corner stone was a ceremony of pomp and splendor. Many national officers and several of those affiliated with the State Department attended the sacred rites which were beautifully portrayed by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons; Charlotte Commandery No. 37 Knights Templar added dignity to the occasion, and music was dispersed throughout the ritualistic service by Munn's Band, the official band of the National Home.

Up to this time twenty-one cottages have been built by the different state departments. This number would have been doubled but for World War II, which made the cost of material and the advanced wages demanded by labor, prohibitive. The cost of each individual unit or cottage is limited to \$12,500 which includes the furnishings. No two cottages are alike in

any particular. The furnishings are homey yet attractive, creating a spirit of appreciation as well as a background of culture and refinement. The reader must not be misled by the term "cottage" used in this article. They are not a billet, but a fine well-built brick structure, neat and more attractive than many of the homes in the cities. One branch of the V.F.W. that is very much in evidence at the Home is the Ladies Auxiliary which is responsible for three of the most important units, viz: the Hospital, Community Center and the Nursery Cottage.

Each cottage is in charge of a "house mother." In many instances these "mothers" are World War widows or wives of disabled comrades, who are qualified to undertake home management, special care being taken by the Home officials in the selection of those who can meet strict requirements as to previous experience and training, disposition, health and general character. They carry on their duties under the supervision of the director of the Home who keeps in constant touch with the progress and welfare of each family.

The youngsters are allocated to the various cottages in family groups, with ages ranging from five years to high school age students. The "brother and sister" relationship is rapidly developed while the older children learn to help care for the younger ones and otherwise assist with household duties outside the school hours. Children old enough to accept responsibilities are assigned daily chores and duties which must be discharged with the same unselfish spirit. Many graduates from the Home, having majored in stenography and bookkeeping, hold fine positions in offices. Numerous state colleges and universities offer special advantages that will always be available to children sponsored by the V.F.W. National Home.

A child is permitted to remain at the Home until he or she is self-supporting.

The question of creed or religious beliefs on the part of those who seek admission to the Home has no bearing upon eligibility qualifications or administration of the Home itself. All children of the Home, who are old enough to attend religious services, are given the opportunity of affiliating themselves with any of the various creeds and are transported to these various units

every Sunday by buses.

During the year 1929-30 the National Auxiliary of the V.F.W. of the U.S. completed construction of a \$35,000 hospital. It is thoroughly equipped with the latest that modern hospital science provides and is in every way a distinct contribution to the physical needs of those at the home.

In 1939 the Ladies' Auxiliary financed the construction of a \$65,000 Community Center building; with a combined auditorium and gymnasium capable of seating 1000 persons as its main feature, it was designed to meet the social, cultural, and physical educational needs of the National Home. The building is a two-story and basement structure of brick, reinforced concrete, and masonry. It contains a stage, regulation basketball and volley ball courts, athletic equipment, spacious club rooms, library, storage space, lockers, shower baths, dining room, kitchen and a motion picture projection booth. They have the opportunity of seeing the latest and best movies as that is the program carried out every Saturday night.

In 1945 the Ladies' Auxiliary also completed the construction of a \$75,000 structure to be used exclusively for the housing of infant children up to the age of five. It is known as the "Nursery Cottage" and provides the National Home with the latest and best in modern, scientific facilities for the care of infants. It was designed for expansion as the needs warrant, features a solarium, and will accommodate sixteen babies.

The Military Order of the Cootie, fun degree of the V.F.W., was granted permission on April 6, 1935, to construct an outdoor playground to be known as "Cootie Field." Local units of the Cooties, known as Pup Tents, as well as individual members of the organization, contributed to the campaign and on August 17, 1941, the M.O.C. dedicated the new playground which covers fifteen acres and cost approximately \$10,000. In addition to the football field, baseball and softball diamonds, tennis courts, wading pool and playground for small children, there is a building containing rest room facilities, making a complete outdoor playground and recreation field. All seasonal sports are popular among the youngsters, including those made possible by Michigan snows during the winter.

The hospital, Community Center and Cootie Field occupy advantageous points adjacent to and just outside of the campus circle. The hospital stands on an angle to the southeast, the Community Center to the northeast and the Cootie Field to the east forming an excellent background for the staff from which "Old Glory" is flung to the breeze every day, being protected by a large cannon at its base. The flag is unfurled every morning at sunrise and lowered at sunset by boys selected for that service.

The ideals of the National Home do not tolerate the dressing of the children in uniforms; clothes and wearing apparel for children and mothers are provided by the Home. The material is secured direct from manufacturers and dealers in wholesale quantities and dispensed in accordance with existing needs; a vast amount of clothing and furnishings is received at the Home from Posts and Auxiliaries and many other civic organizations that are interested in its welfare. Clothes for each child are selected with the same sense of fitness and style as displayed by the average American mother in the adornment of her own children. And there is exemplified the spirit of the National Home, with its desire to develop the personality and the character of each of its proteges in order that all of these boys and girls will grow up to be good substantial citizens and Americans proud of the heritage that is theirs as sons and daughters of the nation's honored dead. Those from the Home that graduate from the city schools each year are arrayed in the finest of materials, the girls in their beautiful formals and the boys in suits in vogue at the time.

At Christmas each child is given the opportunity of making out a list of three articles he or she would like to have Santa Claus bring. The task of finding these presents is handled by Mrs. Adams and her valuable assistant, Mrs. Margaret Nicholas, who shop not only locally but in nearby cities in order to fulfill the wishes of the children and they are not often disappointed. Buying presents for 150 kids is no "pink tea." Hundreds of pounds of candy, peanuts and cracker jack, crates of oranges and other tropical fruits are received in abundance from the scores of Posts and Auxiliaries from all over the U.S. for the Yuletide. On the two big holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas,

either chickens or turkeys (each cottage has the same) are served and the tables groan with the delicacies of the season. The big Christmas tree plays an important role at the Community Center on Christmas Eve where the boys and girls from all cottages meet and sing carols and Old Santa distributes presents.

Hallowe'en with its spooks, witches and black cats is another big event at the Home and the pleasure of celebrating this weird festival is never denied them. Those in charge see to it that the Community Center is dressed for the occasion.

Three sources of income have made it possible for the V.F.W. of the U.S. to maintain and develop the Home at Eaton Rapids. These include a percentage of the proceeds of the annual national sale of Buddy Poppies, the revenue derived from the sale of life membership in the National Home, and the annual sale of National Home seals to the Veterans and their Ladies' Auxiliaries. For each Buddy Poppy the Home receives one cent and the check received for last year's sale amounted to \$170,000. The largest amount of revenue is received from the sale of seals sent out each year prior to Christmas. Its growth has been phenomenal. In 1943, 130,000 envelopes were dispatched; 1944, 300,000; 1945, 500,000; and 1946, 1,228,795 envelopes were dispatched. Each envelope contains a letter, two envelopes (one a return letter), a card, 100 seals and a booklet on the development of the Home. It takes about forty-five women (under special supervision) about three months to complete the mailing which consists of assembling, stuffing the envelopes, sealing, sorting into cities and states, tying into packages, and placing in labeled mail bags ready for dispatch to all points of the U.S. and many foreign countries. A new building 40 x 100 has been erected for this work exclusively. Any person may become a Life Member of the National Home upon the payment of \$25.00 and this may be obtained by writing direct to the Home.

Up to this time nothing has been said in regard to the activities on the farm. There are about twenty-five persons employed in the offices and as farm laborers besides those connected with the cottages, hospital and nursery. There is practically no waste land; each department has its supervisor. A herdsman looks after the

100 head of Holstein cattle; a dairyman operates the milk pasteurizing plant and makes the butter and cottage cheese; a boss farmer has charge of planting, harvesting and rotating the crops; an orchardist is busy with the 115-acre apple, 20-acre pear and 10-acre peach orchards; an expert on swine runs the piggery with its 75 "porkers"; 3000 gowls are in the hands of a skillful chicken fancier, and the 20-acre vegetable garden is under the supervision of an expert horticulturalist. It is given adequate protection from a drouth by an automatic irrigating system. These activities supply ample food stuffs for the Home and also a large quantity which is purchased by the local merchants. This year ('47) the New York Central Railroad, which passes thru the southern portion of the farm, has erected a 500-foot siding which will aid materially in both shipping of fruit and the receipt of all commodities. In good years, hundreds of dollars are taken in by the sale of fruit from the different orchards.

The program of development accomplished by the Board of Trustees thus far also includes an up-to-date water supply system, a sewage system, garage, laundry, office and warehouse and other utility buildings required for efficient maintenance of the estate, the latest being a quonset hut 40 x 100 for fruit and vegetables and a cider mill 20 x 30. Early in 1946 a locker plant and refrigeration unit was completed to preserve the meat and other perishable foods raised on the farm.

There is a troop of No. 1 Boy Scouts at the Home that is ably supervised by Paul Letts, one who gained his knowledge in scouting by coming up through the ranks.

In 1945 the Board of Trustees acquired the services of Mr. John W. Ralston as Mr. Adams' assistant. Mr. Ralston had had a considerable amount of playground work and coaching football and basketball. He was a graduate of the Pennsylvania School of Physical Therapy and was a valuable man to administer treatment to the young proteges. Addenda:

In 1948, Mr. Ralston resigned and George B. Seafort, once a boy at the Home, a graduate of the Eaton Rapids Public Schools and a student at Albion College before World War II, in which he served, was chosen to fill the vacancy.

One of the finest buildings in Central Michigan is the Margaret A. Armstrong Guest Lodge and Memorial Chapel, a gift of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the United States and is offered to the public, upon appointment, for both meals and sleeping facilities. It was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in September, 1949. The cost of the building complete was \$172,000.00.

In 1950 the Military Order of Cooties built an out-of-doors swimming-pool adjacent to and east of the Community Center. Its dimensions are 34 x 72 feet and it cost \$38,000.00 complete with all of its appointments.

Mr. Adams resigned on November 1, 1951, and Mr. Stanley Walker of Harrisburg, Pa., has been appointed to succeed him.

THE CENTENNIAL

The year 1836 was a memorable one. Our forefathers made a survey of the land on which this beautiful city is located, purchased and procured the title of it from the government, while at the same time the Congress of the United States was admitting Michigan to statehood.

As is the custom in almost every instance when an individual, industry, city, state or nation reaches the century mark, that fact is heralded with pomp and glory. The citizenry of this community rallied to the occasion of their Centennial and put forth every effort in their power to make its celebration a success.

Months before, an executive committee of the Centennial was selected, consisting of Dr. C. J. Winder, Chairman; Carl R. Sprinkle, Secretary; M. D. Crawford, Treasurer; Mrs. Helen Fetta, Corresponding Secretary; W. Scott Munn, R. D. Gifford, Harold A. Pettit, G. E. McArthur and J. Homer Topliff. They met and formulated plans for the celebration, selected chairmen for the several committees, and made an outline of the pageantry that would depict the progress made in the diversified lines of industry, our mineral springs that were nationally known, and local happenings that had served as milestones as they had been enacted in the drama of life.

The headquarters were located in the north store of the Michigan State Bank Building (present quarters of Consumers Power Co.) and for several weeks before the dates of the celebration (August 20, 21, and 22) the committee met there. They had their lunch served by the West Cafe (next door south) and by so doing kept in constant touch with the progress being made by those in charge of the several committees, which contributed in no small way to the huge success of the Centennial. Hon. G. E. McArthur was appointed Director of Ceremonies and Narrator.

The chairmen of the several committees follow:

Advertising, Charles Miller; Entertainment and Sports, J. Homer Topliff; Program, Charles L. Poor; Queen, Jack Davidson; Industrial Parade, Frank B. Klopell; Horseshoe, Fred Hutchinson; History, G. E. McArthur; Decoration, Harry H. Milbourn; Civic Parade, Kenneth Maupin; Reception, E. E. Horner; Finance, Carl R. Sprinkle; Baseball, Ralph Blackmore; Registration, Mrs. Mildred Evans; Music, W. Scott Munn; Director of Parade, Hugh M. Hall; Medical Emergency, Dr. A. G. Sheets; Pageant Finance and Ushers, Chris Davidson; Concession, Arthur Jowett; Publicity, R. D. Gifford; Talent and Pageant, J. Manley Card; Antique Firearms, Charles F. Parks; Director of Antiques, Elwyn Speers; Antique Photos, Mrs. Max Smith; Antique Jewelry, E. R. Britten; Antique Artcraft and Heirlooms, John D. Birney.

These committees contained over 150 persons, besides an Honorary Boosting Committee of 75 and 200 in the pageant.

There were three full days of entertainment commencing at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at midnight.

The following musical organizations entertained with varied programs at intervals each day: WPA Bands of Lansing and Jackson; Vocational School Band of Lansing; Mason, Reading and Eaton Rapids High School Bands; Munn's Concert Band and Ford's Michigan Mountaineers. There were the crowning of the Queen, Edna LaSeney, by Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald, free acts, baseball games, airplane stunts, sports of all kinds, pavement dance every night and Barkoot Brothers Carnival Rides and Shows. Not a dull moment!

The outstanding feature of the celebration was the Industrial Parade under the personal supervision of Frank B. Klopell and Martin Hansen. They were weeks lining it up and two branches of industry were depicted from their inception, viz.: the cycle-the-mower-reaper-binder and combine and the different stages of auto-craft, including Fords and many Oldsmobile lines from their beginning to the present time. Even the "Spirit of '76" (the writer is sorry not to be able to give the personnel of the musicians and flag bearer) was very much in evidence and Gobel Brewing Company sent their three-team exhibition Clydesdales and delivery wagon as their part toward the celebration. It was con-

ceded to be the finest and most historical parade ever to be held in central Michigan.

There were two families in this parade to whom this year meant more than to any others. One was the Horner brothers, Charles, Edward and William—it being the one-hundredth anniversary of the operation of the first textile mill by their father, the late Samuel Horner. They rode in a surrey, of the vintage of the '80's, formerly owned by George H. Lincoln. The other was that of Benjamin Knight of Albion, grandson of our first settler and son of the first white child born in our little village.

The Pageant:

"On the Banks of the Beautiful Grand"
A Historical Pageant Commemorating One Hundred Years of
Progress in the City of Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Written and Directed by
Maude Stewart Beagle
State Historian D.A.R. of Michigan
Produced by
Davidson Producing Company
Flint, Michigan
Percy Davidson, Manager
Music by Leo O'Mara's Orchestra of Lansing

EPISODE I. THE WILDERNESS

Mrs. Vivian Woods, *Chairman*

Miss Donaldine Starks, *Assistant Chairman*

This episode represented our country as it was in prehistoric times. One hundred young girls of the Eaton Rapids school danced in a ballet as the spirits of the forest, river and flowers which ruled here for many ages before the time of man.

EPISODE II. THE COMING OF THE REDMAN

Mrs. Carrie Natusch, *Chairman*

Mrs. Fred Price, *Assistant Chairman*

Elwyn Speer—*Indian Chief*

James Houston—*Brave*

Mrs. Ruth Naylor—*Princess* Clyde Morgan—*Pipe Lighter*
Betty Sheets—*Solo Dancer*

The Indians were seen in the Council fire and peace pipe ceremony. Squaws brought in the wigwams and set them up while the chief arrived on horseback with the princess seated on the Indian drag. "The Indian Love Call" announced the approach of a Brave of a rival tribe bearing gifts for the Chief, hoping that he might gain the Princess' hand in marriage. The old Chief refused to receive him and, after a sad farewell to his loved one, he left with his men, only to be shot with a poisoned arrow by one of her father's men. As he was borne away, the Princess left her tribe, set her face to the west and, reaching the banks of the river, leaped into a watery grave.

EPISODE III. THE PIONEERS.

Mrs. Park Williams, *Chairman*; Mrs. Nell Long, *Ass't. Chairman*
Pioneers: *Enacted by:*

Mr. & Mrs. Amos Spicer.....*Mr. & Mrs. John Birney*
Mr. & Mrs. Columbus Darling.....*Mr. & Mrs. Arch Doak*
Mr. & Mrs. Conklin.....*Rev. & Mrs. Lawrence Horning*
Mr. & Mrs. John Montgomery.....*Mr. & Mrs. James Williams*
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Knight.....*Mr. & Mrs. George Merritt*

This was very cleverly carried out. The entrance was a replica of the old prairie schooner, with all the natural accessories.

EPISODE IV. THE FIRST SCHOOL

Miss Stella Thompson, *Chairman*

First School Master—Heileman O. Miller

Groups from the Eaton Rapids High School represented the modern school.

EPISODE V. THE FIRST WOOLEN MILL

Mrs. Ada Simpson, *Chairman*

Elwyn Speer, *Assistant Chairman*

Actors in this scene were employees of the Horner Brothers Woolen Mill.

"In 1880 Samuel Horner came and bought the mill that now still bears his name.

He paved the way for modern looms and wheels
And brought to Eaton Rapids wondrous fame."

EPISODE VI. THE FIRST CHURCH

Mrs. Lawrence Horning, *Chairman*

Mrs. Lawrence Horning as Tryphosa Conklin. Citizens from the different churches took part in this and made it an outstanding contribution to the renowned celebration.

"No land can thrive nor nation builded be
Without the Church to give a guiding hand,
So Eaton Rapids would doubtless have been lost
Had not religion come to bless our land."

EPISODE VII. EATON RAPIDS IN THE CIVIL WAR—1860.

Mrs. J. R. Maxey, *Chairman*

Mrs. Ward Trimble, *Assistant Chairman*

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Blair were enacted by Mr. and Mrs. W. Scott Munn.

"Abe Lincoln sent a call for men in '61,
The word was flashed throughout our lovely land,
Then Austin Blair, our Eaton Rapids Governor,
Sent forth a proclamation by his hand."

In this episode we showed a street scene in Eaton Rapids in 1860 when Austin Blair of this city was Governor of Michigan. We saw him enter, in his carriage, and read Lincoln's proclamation asking for men to enlist. He received the plaudits of the people. Later we saw the Eaton Rapids Cadets dancing with their sweethearts. The bugle called and they hurried away to join the rank at Lansing, the women waving good-bye.

EPISODE VIII. THE DISCOVERY OF MINERAL SPRINGS 1869

Mrs. Kenneth Maupin, *Chairman*

Mrs. Glenn Marr, *Assistant Chairman*

Russell Swan as A.B. Cummins Vera Gifford as Miss Gallery

"In Eighteen Hundred Sixty-nine there sprang
From out the earth, a wondrous mineral spring
Whose healing waters proved a boon to all
Who suffered. And to many the gift of health did bring.

From far and near on crutches and in chairs
The stricken ones were brought,
And as of old the poor in Jordan bathed,
So now at Eaton Rapids wonders new were wrought.

Among them came a youth, handsome and strong,
Destined for honors among the nation's great;
As A. B. Cummins, a youthful engineer,
He chose the fair Miss Gallery for his mate."

This scene took place in the garden of the Frost House in 1879 when there was much gay life here, and Eaton Rapids was a famous watering place. Many came on crutches and in wheel-chairs, and discarded them after taking baths and drinking the water. There were seven hotels and a sanitarium within the city. A. B. Cummins, now U. S. Senator from Iowa, came to Eaton Rapids as a civil engineer and married Miss Ida Gallery. Their wedding took place in this scene.

EPISODE IX. EATON RAPIDS IN WAR

Mrs. Charles Smith, *Chairman*

"In every war of the U.S.A. Eaton Rapids took a part,
Her men marched forth to fight in '61;
Some ne'er came back to homes and loved ones here
But every battle that they fought was won.

In '98 with "Teddy" they saved the Stars and Stripes
And made the Spaniards tremble at the sinking of the Maine;
They fought like gallant gentlemen whenever there was need,
And every time a war was called they made the bullets rain.

In Nineteen Hundred Seventeen, they went across the seas,
And marching up the Bois Boulogne said, "Lafayette, here
we come!"

They took their Uncle Sammy's flag to the banks of Seine and
Marne,
And presented Eaton Rapids to the Kaiser and the Hun."

This was a grand spectacle, very colorful, with the following organizations representing those that were called to the colors during the three wars in which we had participated, viz: Civil, Spanish American and World War I:

American Legion Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Woman's Auxiliary to American Legion, Woman's Auxiliary to V.F.W., Sailors, Girl Scouts, Red Cross Nurses, Red Cross Home Workers, Gold Star Mothers, Salvation Army, Drum & Bugle Corps, and Boy Scouts of America.

EPISODE X. THE FOUNDING OF A HOME—1924

Mrs. Pollett enacted by Mrs. Lasley

Pollett children played by children from the V.F.W. Home

This scene showed the arrival of the Pollett family which was the first group to arrive at the V.F.W. Home. Mr. Roy Williams, who met the little family at the train, took his own part.

"In nineteen hundred twenty-four our loyal V.F.W.
Gave of their money and themselves to build
A home for children. One that should be a monument
To those who on the battle field were killed.

Six children and a mother bowed with grief
At loss of father and of husband dear
Were filled with hope, and inspiration given
When word from V.F.W. told that help was near.

This little family was the first to come
To start the splendid home that stands nearby
Where generous men from many distant states
Built a spirit that will never die."

GRAND FINALE

"Go on, Eaton Rapids, build as our fathers did;
The future lies before us, live not in the past,
May new successes, new endeavors crown thy name,
May thy virtues and thy honors ever last."

Actors from each episode joined the parade as they had appeared and were viewed by Uncle Sam, Miss Columbia and the audience. Uncle Sam enacted by Lynn Baldwin, Miss Columbia enacted by Lucille Baldwin.

The pageant was held on the school grounds between the high school and Spring Brook. The setting was ideal as the rise of ground adjacent to the buildings formed a perfect amphitheater.

The elements never performed more beautifully than they did the last night. Flashes of lightning streaked through the sky at intervals which were followed by the roaring thunder in the distance. All this seemed to be a part of the drama and it made the scene so realistic that many commented on its entrance into the picture climaxing a beautiful occasion as the curtain was drawn on our one hundredth anniversary.

IN CONCLUSION

It is finished. It has been a hard and laborious task, yet mighty pleasing and interesting, as I have renewed many old acquaintances and have refreshed my memory on the scores of dear friends that have answered the last call. Sincerely I believe it has prolonged my life, as during this epoch several events have transpired that have impaired my health, the principal one being my sister Lena's terrible affliction. Compiling this work has been a solace in many ways, as it has soothed my troubled mind by directing my thoughts in different channels.

In presenting this work I have perused all data at my disposal and it is authentic as far as it is humanly possible to be; yet with all of this precaution I may have been misinformed on some subject and there might be an erroneous statement—but not willfully on my part.

I am extremely thankful to Mesdames Jerrene Bartlett and Gladys Topliff who have typed the history, the original being in longhand; to Miss Stella Thompson and Mrs. Ruth Rouse for proofreading the manuscript; to Mrs. Dorothy Rich, who had the arduous task of making the final verification and classification before delivering the book to the publisher; to Earl Rich, chairman of the W. Scott Munn Book Committee, who made all the contacts with the printers and is responsible for its publication; to Miss Dorothy Merritt, secretary and treasurer of the committee; and to Mrs. Gretchen Houck, who provided the original art work on the cover and the title page. I am also grateful to all who so kindly furnished pictures for the book and to Mrs. VanFleet, who assisted with their preparation.

More power to my sponsors, Richard G. Toncray and Frank B. Klopell. May success be theirs. To them I am most grateful and but for them my work would never have graced the shelves of anyone's library.

*Life is the pleasantest thing of all,
Discharging our duties day by day;
So when the final summons comes,
They'll remember—'You passed this way'.*

W. J. M.

